

RETIREE

# news & views



A PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 237 RETIREE DIVISION

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## Black History Celebration

This year the Retiree Division held our Black History Celebration on February 21, 2024. In keeping with the theme of this year's Black History Month, "African American and the Arts" the Franck Muhel Dance Ensemble presented a dance recital which depicted the journey of a determined slave "Tado" who escaped a plantation in the West Indies in search of justice and freedom. The recital was portrayed in 5 Acts, which detailed Tado's travels through various Caribbean Islands to reach the land of freedom New York. The retirees enjoyed the presentation and expressed appreciation for such rich history.



In memory of  
*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

His words continue to  
resonate and inspire us.





by Gregory Floyd

President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President-at-Large on the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Across this nation, throughout February, there were celebrations in honor of Black History Month. It's a time not only to celebrate, but to educate. It's a time to acknowledge the accomplishments, delight in the rich heritage and retell the history of a people often forgotten, mistreated, and misunderstood.

But Black History Month is not without controversy. Some critics say that empowerment is not accomplished by one month of recognition. Others find it outdated, only symbolic, not necessary, and even separatist. Its founder, historian Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, argued that "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and stands in danger of being exterminated."

For me, there is no controversy. Black History Month is about history and so much more. It's involvement. It's about action. It's about recognition. And, most important, it's a call to duty. Black History Month is not about validation, it's about inspiration. It's about creating more accomplishments, breaking more barriers, and earning the respect of ALL people. It's about adding new chapters to a rich history.

February is known as the month for acknowledging "The Best" in many categories—from the Super Bowl to the Grammy Awards. Let's use the occasion to honor our own list of "Best" and work to add more names to it. For sure, the list is already

## A Message From The President

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A TIME TO INSPIRE BLACK LABOR LEADERSHIP

long with many giants and "firsts", past and present, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., former President Barack Obama, Rev. Calvin Butts, Justice of the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Congress Members like Shirley Chisholm and Hakeem Jeffries and New York State Attorney General Letitia James. But while Black History Month remembers the past and celebrates the present, it must also look to the future. It should be a time that helps to motivate, mentor, and nurture our next generation of champions in the struggle for social and labor justice.

For labor unions, there's an important principle used in organizing efforts to increase our membership. That principle is: Show workers tangible benefits from joining a union. Let them know that benefits such as healthcare coverage, paid vacations, workplace safety requirements and minimum wage did not always exist. Labor unions fought hard for them—and won—while continuing the fight for equality and respect on the job. That principle also holds true for inspiring and exciting young people to get more involved. It's not easy for any labor leader to accomplish, and that's especially true for Black labor leaders. It's often more difficult for them to be taken seriously or to receive acknowledgment for their accomplishments because of prejudice and misinformation. Take, for example, that remarkable win to unionize Amazon workers in Staten Island. That was no small feat! That victory was unthinkable a mere four years ago! Yet, in March of 2020, an Amazon warehouse worker, Christian Smalls, led a walkout in protest of deplorable, Covid-related conditions. Amazon had dismissed Smalls as insignificant. They even fired him. But he connected with his co-

workers in a way Amazon's highly paid public relations team could not do. That's what labor leadership should be about: Connecting with workers. And to a large degree, Black labor leaders are in a prime position to lead the way.

All labor leaders experience challenges, but for many Black labor leaders, the challenges are even greater. We are confronted with glaring daily headlines about harm and hate throughout the world, the nation, and our city. It's often difficult to see the "havens" of help, normalcy and compassion that still exist today. They are obscured by the noise and chaos that regrettably touch so many lives. Labor unions represent one such "haven". They provide stability and hope. And they have a track record of achievements to prove it. But the job of outreach to increase membership and thereby improve our ability to have influence and impact is often met with low expectations and disrespect, from both inside and outside of the union. That's why the next step of inspiring and nurturing leaders-in-the-making is so important. Without that, we are sunk.

It's important to note that, however daunting the challenges may appear, we are now seeing some promising signs. Although union membership across the nation has declined, New York remains strong at roughly 22%. And about 70% of the union workforce is in the public sector, with African Americans making up the largest number. So, here's a suggestion: Let's use our strength in numbers to not only grow our base of members, but to also support and encourage the next generation of Black labor leaders. We can connect. We're good at it. And that's how leadership is gained and maintained. ■



A Message From The Director

## Aging in place: what does this mean?

by Julie Kobi LMSW

Director of the Retiree Division

As a geriatric social worker for many years, the most common goal for older adults is to remain at home independently as safely as possible for as long as possible. Remaining in your own home as you get older is called "aging in place". But many older adults and their families have overall concerns about safety, getting around, and other daily activities. Remaining at home or aging in place requires careful consideration and may oftentimes require planning. For example, leaning on family and friends for assistance with tasks such as escorting to a doctor's appointment, shopping, and house chores. Assistance with the task requires planning and coordination with others to meet your needs.

Here are tips to consider that I hope you find helpful:

### ASSESSING YOUR HOME ENVIRONMENT TO ENSURE SAFETY

According to the center for disease control, each year, millions of older people—those 65 and older—fall. In fact, more than one out of four older people falls each year, but less than half tell their doctor. Falling once

doubles your chances of falling again. Modifications in the home environment are needed to ensure safety. Consider the following:

- Clear walkways for accessibility. This may also require checking floor mats and/or carpeting to ensure mats and/or carpeting are properly secured to the floor.
- Making the bathroom as safe as possible. This may require installing grab bars and a raised toilet seat. Also, non-skid grips on the bathroom floor for stability.
- Increase lighting wherever possible. Areas that are dim may result in a fall. Is your pathway to the bathroom well lit? Of course, you know your apartment inside and out, however, one misstep can result in a serious injury.
- Lower commonly used items at arm's reach. For example, avoid climbing on objects to obtain hard-to-reach items. Keep medications and pantry items within arm's reach for easier access.

Overall, aging in place requires an ongoing assessment of your safety needs over time. As time goes on, our needs change and may require modification in the home environment to reduce safety risk. The decision to age in place or moving to another setting can be difficult and an emotional experience as everyone's needs are different. Learn as much as you can about housing options. For example, retirement communities or assisted living to name a couple. Make a list of the pros and cons of each before making a decision. ■



## Important Phone Numbers for Retirees

**Local 237 Teamsters Retiree Division** **212-807-0555**  
 216 West 14th Street 6th Fl., New York, NY 10011  
 Email: Retirees2@local237.org

**Local 237 Teamsters Retirees Benefit Fund.** **212-924-7220**  
 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011  
 ~ Dental- Eyeglasses- Prescription Plan- Hearing Aid  
 ~ Supplemental Medical Fund  
 Email: welfareinfo@local237.org

**Local 237 Legal Services Plan** **212-924-1220**  
 216 West 14th Street, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10011

**NYC Employee Health Benefits Office** **212-513-0470**  
 22 Cortlandt Street, 12th Fl. -New York, NY 10007  
 ~ Administration of Health Insurance Benefits (All retirees)  
 ~ Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement Registration  
 Email: healthbenefits@olr.nyc.gov (for general inquiries)  
 Website: https://www.1.nyc.gov/site/olr/index.page

**NYCERS** **347- 643-3000**  
**New York City Employees Retirement System**  
 ~ Questions about pension, Lost checks, changing address or banking information, etc.  
 Website: https://www.nycers.org/contact  
**By Mail:** 30-30 47th Avenue, 10th Fl Long Island City, NY 11101 **In Person:** 340 Jay Street - Mezzanine Brooklyn, NY 11201

**NYC Board of Education Retirement System** **929-305-3800**  
 65 Court Street, Room 1603 - Brooklyn, NY 11201  
 ~ Questions about pension, Lost checks, changing address or banking information, etc.  
 Website: https://www.bers.nyc.gov/site/bers/about/contact-bers.page

**Social Security Administration** **800-772-1213**  
 Website: https://www.ssa.gov/

**Medicare** **800-MEDICARE / 633-4227**  
 Website: https://www.medicare.gov/

CLIP AND SAVE

## Legal Fringe Benefits and IRS form W-2



by **Mitch Goldberg**  
 Director of the Retiree Benefit Fund

Each year at the end of January, the Office of Payroll Administration issues W-2's to all retirees. Once these are received the Fund office as well as the Retirees' Division starts receiving calls regarding the Legal Fringe Benefit. Hopefully, I can answer why you received the IRS Form W-2.

Legal service benefits are available to you through the Legal Services Division established by the Trustees of the Fund. This plan of benefits has been established to provide a wide range of legal services at no cost to you. Under Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, Legal Service Fringe Benefits are considered income subject to Federal employment taxes (Income, Social Security (FICA) and Medicare). Accordingly, the amount of this benefit must be incorporated into a W-2 Wage and Tax statement. For tax year 2023, the calculated benefit cost was \$81.54. Under an agreement with the City of New York, the Fund reimburses the City for the FICA and Medicare taxes they paid related to this benefit as reported in boxes 4 and 6 respectively on your W-2 IRS Form. Although those taxes have been paid on your behalf under our agreement with the City of New York, the value of that benefit is considered income and that is why you received the W-2 and must report this on your tax form.

Let me also explain box 12A which represents the value of the Health Benefits provided to you by the City of New York. You will recognize this because it has a "DD" Code and then a dollar amount in the box along side this code. This is informational only and has no effect on your taxes. ■

### 2024 Pension Payment Calendar



January	February	March	April
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May	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
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To have your pension payments directly deposited to your bank account, visit [nycers.org/efi](https://nycers.org/efi).

- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Date**  
 Keep your banking information up to date by logging in to [my.nycers.org](https://my.nycers.org). If your bank account information is incorrect, the bank will return the funds to NYCERS electronically, and you will need to contact NYCERS to have a replacement check mailed.
- Check Mailing Date**  
 Checks are issued by a third-party financial institution and mailed via USPS two mailing days prior to the end of the month. If you have not received your mailed check by the 10th of the month, contact NYCERS.

340 Jay Street, Bklyn, NY Mezzanine level | Forms, Brochures, Fact Sheets at [www.nycers.org](https://www.nycers.org) | Upload Documents at [www.mynycers.org](https://www.mynycers.org) | (212) 643-3000 M-F, 8am to 5pm | 30-30 47th Avenue, 10th Fl. Long Island City, NY 11101

## Some Benefits of Gardening



by **Edith Johnston, LCSW**  
 Deputy Director, Retiree Division



As the spring approaches, I would like to provide some information about the benefits of gardening. I understand that not everyone lives in a house, but if you live in an apartment you can still do some gardening, and growing house plants is also fun. For example, I live in an apartment. I have a balcony and as soon as the spring starts, I start planting my herbs.

Gardening has many benefits that you may be unaware of. Some of them are:

1. Increased exercise. While you're digging, your whole body is moving. You perform squats and lunges-like exercises, you move your arms while carrying your supplies, and you perform other movements that help your body stay active.
2. Time in nature. This is good for your emotional and physical well-being. People tend to breathe deeper when they are outside, and this helps clear your lungs, which improves the level of oxygen in your blood.
3. Stress reduction. Almost all types of exercise, including gardening, reduce stress. It's shown to lighten mood and lower levels of anxiety. People find it gratifying to plant, tend, harvest, and share their own food.
4. Social connections. When you get involved in an activity like gardening, you will very likely connect with other people who are doing the same. The gardening community is rich with people willing to share their expertise and occasionally plant with new gardeners.

When you first start gardening, start small. It's easy to get excited. The larger the garden, the more time you will have to put into it and it can cause you stress. Learn from people who are already doing it and get advice and learn from their successes and failures. Find out what plants grow well in your climate. Enjoy the Spring! ■

## RETIREE news & views

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## Time To Talk... Encouraging open conversation about Mental Health

by Elaine Williams, LMSW  
Assistant Director, Retiree Division

“Time to Talk Day” is a day dedicated to breaking the silence around mental health. It’s a day usually observed on February 1 each year. Though this day has already passed, it helps us to provide a platform for people to share their experiences, provide support and raise awareness about mental health challenges. By talking openly, we can help reduce the stigma and discrimination that often surrounds mental health issues.

### History of Time to Talk Day

Time to Talk Day is an initiative led by “Time to Change,” named after a social movement in England that works to end the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health. It was first held in 2014 and has since grown into a global event, with people from all over the world participating in conversations about mental health.

### How to participate in Time to Talk Day:

**START A CONVERSATION:** Reach out to friends, family members, or colleagues and ask how they’re doing. Let them know you’re there to listen and support them. Encourage them to engage with an open question focused on

them and their well-being. A conversation about mental health shouldn’t feel like a formal interview. Avoid asking too many questions, especially questions that require a “yes” or “no” answer and those that begin with the word “why”. Ask questions that invite a more detailed response: “How are you feeling”, “Do you have any emotional support in place”.

**SHARE YOUR STORY:** If you feel comfortable, share your own experience with mental health. Your story can inspire others to open up and seek help. Be clear in your thoughts about what you’re happy to share before you get started. Talk about how you maintain personal well-being, relax or de-stress. For example, how you use sports or physical activity as part of your daily or weekly routine.

**USE SOCIAL MEDIA:** Use your social media platforms to spread awareness about hope. Consider using these hashtags: #TimeToTalk, #MentalHealthMatters, #BreakTheStigma, #OpenConversation, #SupportEachOther.

**LISTEN ACTIVELY:** When someone shares their mental health struggles with you, listen without judgment. Offer a compassionate ear and encourage them to seek professional help if needed. The important thing is to listen rather than give advice. Offering a listening ear and showing your acceptance, warmth and regard can go a long way to helping the person who wants to share.

Good mental health is essential to a person’s life in the same way as physical health. Hesitation to talk about mental health adds to the notion that the topic is taboo. If you believe you may have a mental health problem, it’s helpful to talk about these issues with others. So, remember there’s always “Time To Talk”. ■

<https://www.samsha.gov>, <https://www.awarenessday.com>, <https://timetotalk.com.uk>



## Walking for the Mind, Body & Soul

by Luz Nieves-Carty MPA  
Assistant to the Director, Retiree Division

Walking is very beneficial for people of all ages. According to the Better Health Channel, “walking for 30 minutes a day or more on most days of the week is a great way to improve or maintain your overall health. If you can’t manage 30 minutes a day, even shorter walks more frequently can be beneficial. Walking with others can turn exercise into an enjoyable social occasion. See your doctor for a medical check-up before embarking on a higher-intensity new fitness program, particularly if you are aged over 40 years, are overweight or haven’t exercised in a long time”.

When you walk, you carry your own weight. This is known as a weight bearing exercise. Some of the benefits include:

- increased cardiovascular and pulmonary (heart and lung) fitness
- reduced risk of heart disease and stroke
- improved management of conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol, joint and muscular pain or stiffness, and diabetes

- stronger bones and improved balance
- increased muscle strength and endurance
- reduced body fat.

One issue is getting bored with your walking route. In NYC, we have a vast number of parks and walking paths. According to the NYC Parks and Recreation Department, New York City’s parks are host to the country’s greatest outdoor public art museum. With hundreds of permanent works, and more than a dozen works of temporary art on display at any given time, there’s always something new to see just around the corner.

You can discover monuments in New York City’s parks that honor notable and historical women, from former first lady and humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt to trailblazer and abolitionist Harriet Tubman! In Central Park, there is a monument by Meredith Bergmann which honors Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902). These are pioneering women who were among the many leaders and countless advocates and activists who were instrumental in the prolonged struggle for American women’s suffrage. There are too many monuments to mention throughout the five boroughs. However, you can contact 311 or go online [www.nycgovparks.org/art-map](http://www.nycgovparks.org/art-map) to locate great art in your local parks. So grab a friend and start walking. It can enrich your mind, body and soul! ■



## Help us protect you from misleading advertising and communications

by Ravi Gopaul Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security works with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to protect you from scams that use Social Security as bait. Section 1140 of the *Social Security Act* allows OIG to impose severe penalties against anyone who engages in misleading Social Security-related advertising or imposter communications.

For example, the OIG may impose a penalty against anyone who:

- Mails misleading solicitations that appear to be from or authorized by Social Security.
- Operates an imposter website or social media account designed to look like it belongs to or is authorized by Social Security.
- Sends emails or text messages or makes telephone calls claiming to be from Social Security.
- Sells Social Security’s free forms, applications, and publications without our written approval.
- Charges a fee for a service that Social Security provides free of charge without providing a clearly visible notice that Social Security provides the service for free.

If you receive a suspicious Social Security-related advertisement or imposter communication, please let us know immediately. We encourage you to report potential scams to the OIG at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov). You can also send an email to [OIG.1140@ssa.gov](mailto:OIG.1140@ssa.gov).

Please try to capture as much information about the communication as you can. Here’s what you can do:

- For suspicious websites or social media accounts, take a screenshot of the webpage. Note the website address or social media link – and how you came across it.
- For emails and text messages, capture the entire message and any message links.
- For U.S. mail, retain the complete communication, including the outside envelope and all inserts.
- For telephone calls, note the caller identification phone number and any company name or callback number that the caller or recorded message provides.

This information will help OIG locate the source of the suspicious communication. You can review Section 1140 at [www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title11/1140.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1140.htm). You can also checkout our publication, *What You Need to Know About Misleading Advertising*, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf). Please share this information with friends and family and help us spread the word on social media! ■

# AFRODESCENDIENTES: Dos investigaciones fundamentales para mejor comprendernos

Por Néstor Murray-Irizarry

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I En mi viaje al hermoso país del Perú, hace alrededor de diez años, pude visitar la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú y tuve la grata oportunidad de reunirme con estudiantes y profesores estudiosos de etnomusicología de los afrodescendientes peruanos de varias regiones del Perú. Allí me obsequiaron materiales relacionados con ese tema. Entre los que se encontraba una copia de la tesis doctoral que en "... 1975 el joven estudiante de etnomusicología canadiense William D. Tompkins llegó al Perú para realizar una investigación de campo sobre la música de los afrodescendientes; vivió en Lima y Chincha – en El Carmen – viajó al norte, a Lambayeque – Zaña – y Piura. En esos momentos, el joven estudiante Tompkins abordó su investigación etnomusicológica recogiendo información de diferentes fuentes escritas y orales, profundizando en el conocimiento de los procesos históricos de la música afroperuana, de sus diversos géneros musicales, cantos y danzas, llegando a presentar su tesis doctoral en la Universidad de California, en 1981, bajo el título "The Musical Traditions of the Blacks of Coastal Perú".

Las fuentes escritas, que alcanzan la temática desde tiempo de la colonia hasta el siglo XIX y XX, nos muestran una perspectiva histórica de relaciones sociales y culturales muy dinámicas, entre árabes, hispanos, africanos y los procesos de síntesis cultural, adopciones y transformaciones entre criollos, mestizos, afroamericanos e indígenas." En ese momento pude inicial otra visión de la influencia afrodescendiente de la música peruana. Tompkins señala:

"Aunque muchos de los factores ayudaron a los esclavos a conservar elementos de sus ancestros africanos, otros alentaron la aculturación. Él esclavizado africano, desarraigado de su tierra natal y llevado por la fuerza a un ambiente extraño, encontró pronto que el cordón umbilical que lo unía a su pasado había sido roto. Las estructuras sociales, familiares y políticas que conoció fueron destruidas y en su lugar se impusieron otras nuevas que incluían esclavitud y racismo.

Los africanos debieron haberse aferrado tenazmente a todas sus tradiciones y creencias tanto como les fue posible en un primer momento. Pero a medida que los años y las generaciones pasaron, muchas

de estas tradiciones fueron perdiendo su significado ya que estaban fuera de contexto y ya no reflejaban su realidad.

" Esa experiencia unida a mis conocimientos adquiridos en Puerto Rico ha enriquecido mi vida y mi ser como heredero de ese gran linaje africano. En la mayoría de los países americanos las experiencias fueron similares. En Puerto Rico y en el arco antillano sucedieron hechos históricos de igual o parecida intensidad.

Muchas diferencias se acentúan por la cantidad de africanos que llegaron a nuestras playas. Muchos estudiosos opinan que la variedad de las etnias de africanos que llegan a nuestros países también contribuyen con el énfasis de las costumbres y tradiciones que se van desarrollando entre los miembros del elemento poblacional que está presente."

II En uno de los libros más importantes e innovadores editados en Puerto Rico en 1997 por el Centro de Investigaciones Sociales de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en el recinto de Río Piedras, *Cadenas de Esclavitud... y de Solidaridad: Esclavos y libertos en San Juan, siglos XIX, sus tres autores, Raúl Mayo Santana, Mariano Negrón Portillo y Manuel Mayo López* señalan que:

"La reconstrucción histórica del sistema esclavista en Puerto Rico es una tarea fundamental, tanto para aprender el sistema decimonónico en su totalidad, como para entender las fronteras históricas que sirven de antesala al nuevo siglo, así como para comprender cabalmente la formación social puertorriqueña del presente." (3)

Además, indican que al describir en este libro los matices de negritud:

... "que los amos esclavistas, escribanos y oficiales gubernamentales utilizaron para marcar y sojuzgar a los esclavos negros, salvaguardando los intereses de las clases propietarias y dominantes. De esta manera se ayudaba a sostener una institución social funesta que sobreviviría a la abolición de la esclavitud, y que se resiste hoy a desaparecer: el prejuicio racial." (7-8)

Este material historiográfico nos ayudará a entender el presente de nuestras historias como pueblos latinoamericanos. ■



## Don't Let Your Savings Account Retire!

by David Bonington, CFP®

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

About the only thing better than a good opportunity is an opportunity which continues to be available and offers more than it did in the first place.

In a *News & Views* issue published last year at this time, on the verge of Spring, I pointed out an opportunity that had been "springing" to life during 2022 – namely, that bank and credit union interest rates on savings accounts were becoming meaningful once again.

If you didn't or weren't able to take advantage of this last year, you are not too late. After that article ran, the Federal Reserve Bank continued to raise its underlying rate further.

Stacey Braun Associates provides a financial counseling benefit (covered by the Local 237 Welfare Fund) which offers access to Certified Financial Planners™ able to provide information, ideas, and suggestions on a range of financial topics for retirees – things like how to invest Retirement Account funds (and later manage IRS-mandated withdrawals); IRAs; the Social Security decision; and Estate Planning. Many of you have made good use of this program - but if you have not, a meeting could be a step towards improved financial wellness in 2024.

For the twelve years following end of the Great Recession (2010-2021), inflation was very low and interest rates on most savings

accounts started with a decimal point and a zero. However, this is no longer the case - for a timeframe now beginning its third year! What caused this? – The Federal Reserve Bank's action to dramatically raise an underlying interest rate it controls over the last 24 months. Such action is taken to combat significant inflation. Although it is painful for borrowers, it creates the opportunity savers enjoy today.

Banks and Credit Unions currently offer liquid, high-yield savings account rates around 5%, roughly twice the last 40-year average rate of return on cash. For savers willing to "lock up" funds for short periods, measured in months, Certificates of Deposit ("CDs") usually offer a bit more. (If you are comfortable with online banking, rates can be better still – without sacrificing important FDIC insurance.) Finally, it is also possible to get the best of two worlds – handsome rates and flexibility – by "laddering" CDs of different lengths (For example, putting a little money into each of a three-month, six-month, and nine-month CD). Consider discussing this with your savings institution – or, if you are unsure how all this works, call Stacey Braun for an appointment first!

My very strong suggestion here? Rates are better than they were a year ago – take steps to make sure your savings work as hard as you once did! ■

A free, confidential session with a Stacey Braun planner can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925. No financial products are sold and there is no sales pressure.

Stacey Braun ASSOCIATES, INC. 45<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*We pause to honor retirees we have lost this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with all families and friends. Gone but never forgotten.*



**PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL 212-807-0555 IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.**

In addition to notifying the union, please contact the Social Security Administration, your pension system, and the Office of Labor Relations. You do not want to miss important information.

**RETIREE news & views**

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

**IMPORTANT MEDICARE DEDUCTIBLE INFORMATION**

2024 Medicare deductible—\$240 before Original Medicare starts to pay. Everyone covered under Medicare will have to meet the above deductible during the year regardless of when you see your doctor during the year. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

**Sharing is caring!!**

**LOCAL 237 STAFF CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY**



(l-r) Curtis Scott, Trustee, Ana Reyes, Jean Arias, Wanda Turner, Nadine Thomas, Collette Nelson, and Sabrina Castillo.



(l-r) Retiree Division. Julie Kobi, Shavon Banks, Elaine Williams, Edith Johnston and Noelia Quinones.

*Congratulations New Retirees*

**RETIREES CORNER**



(l-r) Richard Pratts, Radiologic Technologist Level 3, Lincoln Hospital and Local 237 Shop Steward; with Assistant Director of Citywide George Wade.



(l-r) Juliet J. McKenzie, Kings County Hospital Radiologic Technologist; George Wade and James Young, Kings County Hospital Radiologic Technologist, and Local 237 Shop Steward.



Clyde Adam, Maintenance Worker, John Jay College.



(l-r) Louis Sanches, Grievance Representative; Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Recording Secretary; Ramona Prosper, Retired Sergeant at Baruch College; and Wanda Borders, CUNY Public Safety Officer.