

RETIREE

news & views

A PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 237 RETIREE DIVISION

VOL 25, NO. 2, MARCH/APRIL 2019



RETIREE DIVISION'S PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE

FEATURED FIRST PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 237'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Enjoying the luncheon



Néstor Murray-Irizarry

The 2019 Retiree Division's Puerto Rico Conference provided information on important issues, such as benefits and Medicare, and acknowledged leadership with awards. This year's conference also launched the first-ever publication of Local 237's Oral History Project, *Memoria de boricuas peregrinos*—and in Spanish! The Oral History Project reflects the importance of preserving our union's history for future generations. Local 237 retirees contributed to this history as evidenced in their remembrances through stories found throughout the publication. This first book was written in Spanish to signify the Local's commitment to communicating with members in the languages which they are most familiar and comfortable. The book's cover was designed by renowned Puerto Rican artist, Felipe Cuchi and includes inspiring letters by our President, **Gregory Floyd**, Vice President **Ruben Torres** and the Director of the Retiree Division, **Nancy True**. The book was edited by Professor Néstor Murray-Irizarry who conducted all of the interviews in Puerto Rico. ■



Cover art by Felipe Cuchi

Felipe Cuchi was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, in 1950. He is an illustrator, designer and painter. He studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.



Carter G. Woodson, known as the "father of black history," who launched the celebration of "Negro History Week" in 1926, famously said: "Those who have no history of what their forebears have accomplished lose inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project in Puerto Rico addresses that sentiment very well. Conceived by Nancy B. True, the Director of the Retiree Division, more than 25 years ago, this huge undertaking is not only about Local 237's past, but also about our future. The project records more than six decades of advocacy on behalf of our members, as well as enshrines the richness of our cultural diversity we so proudly proclaim. With many of our retirees of Puerto Rican descent having moved back to Puerto Rico, the Oral History Project and the resulting book was a natural fit and became a labor of love about labor.

The historian, Ken Burns once said: "People tend to forget that the word 'history' contains the word 'story.' That does not apply here. The Oral History Project and this book recount the past remembered by people who lived it. They offer their remembrances in a passionate, compelling way that no mere textbook could ever capture. The pictures and artifacts of their experiences are not antiques, but treasures which will make current and future members feel inspired and proud.

As former President Barack Obama said: "The best history doesn't just sit behind a glass case; it helps us to understand what's outside the case." I thank all of the participants in this project for sharing their stories, and Nancy True for having the insight to understand the value of preserving our past.

In solidarity,
Gregory Floyd,

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



I am a third generation Teamster. My grandfather came to New York City from Puerto Rico during "Operation Bootstrap" in the 1950s. He and my father worked for public housing, as did I, starting in low-level positions, working our way up the system to improve the lives of our family. Collectively, we have experienced many struggles and successes as NYCHA workers. Throughout them all, Local 237 was key to making our work lives workable.

I am very proud of my Puerto Rican heritage. My mother, Carmen Cruz, came from Cabo Rojo. She helps to keep the richness of our culture alive and meaningful for me and my daughters. As Secretary-Treasurer of the IBT's National Hispanic Caucus and Vice President of the New York Chapter of the Teamsters Hispanic Caucus, I know, first-hand, of the strong ties between Teamsters and Puerto Rico. That is why I am so grateful to Nancy B. True, the Director of the Retiree Division, for having the vision, 25 years ago, to create the Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project.

Labor leader A. Philip Randolph said it best when describing the "social uplift" of unions: "The labor movement traditionally has been the heaven for the neglected, the despised, the downtrodden, the poor... Let the nation and the world know the meaning of our numbers." In many ways, the oral history project and book epitomize this view of unions. Its personal, unfiltered recollections and mementos bring to life our history in a collection of great interest—and value—to current and future members.

Thank you to all of the participants and Nancy True for helping to educate, inspire and instill a sense of pride in our rich past.

In solidarity,
Ruben Torres,

Vice President of Teamsters Local 237 and Secretary-Treasurer of the IBT's National Hispanic Caucus and Vice President of the New York Chapter of the Teamsters Hispanic Caucus



A union is a fierce and loving family — a family that protects, cares and works on behalf of all to ensure a solid and dignified quality of life. It is a family of thousands of brothers and sisters from different backgrounds, who speak different languages yet share a belief in the value of work and the value of workers. Teamsters Local 237 is such a family.

In 1952 when Local 237 was chartered, it was a time when public sector workers had few of the protections and benefits that we work hard to maintain today. Building a union like Local 237 required struggle, fighting and fighting yet again. Workers took great risks to win benefits that union members have today. In the early years, there were no rights to collective bargaining or dues check-off.

Very early on, Local 237 reflected the glorious diversity that is the mosaic of New York City. Union solidarity was reflected in the 1967 strike at the New York City Housing Authority, the 1971 Bridges Strike and in the everyday experiences of Local 237 members working hard to make New York City a better place to live. Union membership provided secure employment, benefits and entry into the middle class.

Every family has history and traditions that pass through generations in an oral tradition. Our union family is the same. Local 237's history resides, not only in photographs and newsletters, but also in the minds and hearts of our members. This is why, 25 years ago, the Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project was initiated. Recognizing that oral traditions are often lost, if not preserved in writing, we began the process of interviewing and recording the personal histories of union members. In many ways, we were working against time. When the project started, many charter

Continued on page 5



Nancy B. True at the podium



Activista Awards for Retiree Leadership in Puerto Rico

MORE ABOUT THE RETIREE DIVISION PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE ON PAGE 5



by Gregory Floyd

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

If you live in Florida, or in California, or any other predominantly warm climate, you may not experience or even notice a case of so-called “spring fever”. It’s a much sought after affliction usually accompanied by feelings of calm, happiness and excitement as warm, sunny days replace the chill and drabness of winter. Its side-effects are tolerable: You’ll need sunglasses—but who cares! Your comfy fur-lined boots and gloves head for the closet—to which you say, good riddance! During the winter months of constant cold and early darkness, thoughts of spring are all you have to fuel the soul. And now, it’s here. Buds are on the branches, trees are coming alive, and flowers are pushing through soil once laden with snow. It’s like a motion picture that had been shot in black and white being remade into technicolor.

a message from the president Spring Into Action!

And, it’s important to take notice. Look outside. Take a walk. It’s a child’s room filled with toys and wonderment. Everything is new. There’s a fresh coat of paint on the world. It’s affirmation of what William Shakespeare said: “*April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.*”

Indeed, spring symbolizes renewal, new beginnings and growth. It’s the season of Easter and Passover—a time of rebirth; a time for making new plans, having new hopes and making positive changes. Ask any baseball fan of a previously losing team and you’ll hear: “This season, they’ll be winners.” Spring is a time of miracles. It’s when we clean the house to brighten things up a bit, and when we try to rid ourselves of thoughts that lead to useless worrying and doubts. We plan vacations. We buy summer clothing. The mailbox fills with invitations to weddings, graduations and confirmations. For sure, spring is the time of beauty and love. It’s a time to be in good humor. The birds are singing and so are we.

But an obvious question lurks among all of this good cheer: What do we do with these good tidings? Do we just accept them and move on? Or, is there a call to action here that we should not—that we must not, ignore? If spring offers hope—even mira-

cles—do we have an obligation of sorts that requires us to do something more than just enjoy the season? From my vantage point as a union leader, the answer is a resounding “YES!” Now is the time to reinvigorate our membership. Let’s dust off those old labor movement chants and bumper stickers: “*United we bargain, divided we beg*”, “*Freedom, democracy, unions*”, “*Unions built the middle class*”, and let’s put them to good use...maybe even create new ones that speak to a generation of workers who don’t know or who are yet to be convinced that “*United we stand, divided we fall.*”

We are in a critical time in the history of our nation, where divisions are deep and disharmony the new norm. But one place where unity is the goal and the driving force is the labor union. Unions offer stability in the vortex of a storm. We need to use this time to be the anchor. We must reinforce our value among long-time workers and introduce ourselves to newer workers. Union bashers and union busters abound. But I believe that we at Local 237 have done a good job at demonstrating the slogan: “*Union strong. Union proud. Everyone say it loud.*” And we must continue. The sun is out. It’s spring. So, let’s spring into action! ■



by Nancy B. True

Director of the Retiree Division

Our History, Our Pride, Our Union

On March 12th in San Juan Puerto Rico, the first edition of the first book of the Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project was presented to retired members. They were attending the 2019 Puerto Rico Retiree Conference and many of the participants were the subject of the publication. **Memoria de Boricuas Peregrinos** is a compilation of interviews that took place between 2015 and 2018 that were conducted by Professor Murray-Irizarry of Casa Paoli in Ponce, Puerto Rico. All of the interviews, except three, took place on the island of Puerto Rico. Murray-Irizarry, the

author and editor of numerous books and articles is the editor of the book.

Memoria de Boricuas Peregrinos is the first of what we hope will be many books about the history of Local 237 and the great pride that we have in the union. It is significant that the initial publication is in Spanish, for it sends a strong message that the union is committed to communicating with members in the language with which they feel most comfortable.

In my introduction to the book, I reflected on this philosophy when I said, “*A union is a fierce and loving family ... It is a family of thousands of brothers and sisters from different backgrounds, who speak different languages yet share a belief in the value of work and the value of workers. Teamsters Local 237 is such a family*”

President Floyd said, “*...The (Oral History) project records more than six decades of advocacy on behalf of our members, as well as enshrines the richness of our cultural diversity we so proudly proclaim.*”

Vice President Ruben Torres reflected on “*...the strong ties between Teamsters and Puerto Rico.*” **Memoria de Boricuas Peregrinos**

captures the story of the Puerto Rican diaspora and the search for a better life in New York City and the role that Teamsters Local 237 played in creating that better life.

For those who ask, “Why is history important?,” the Oral History Project answers this question by sharing the stories of Local 237 members regarding their everyday work lives. It captures the pride that they feel in a job well done. It reflects the importance of solidarity and union membership. It highlights the value of work and workers.

In the next few months, we will begin working on the second book for the Oral History Project. It will have interviews of members who joined the union in the ‘50s, 60s, 70’s and beyond. It will reflect the struggles of early members and the formative union events that were the foundation of Local 237 today.

I hope that many of you will share your stories with the Oral History Project. It is critical that our current members understand that union benefits and protections are a result of struggle and that the dignity they provide in the workplace are hard won rights. We are family/Somos familia. ■

RETIREE news & views

Retiree News & Views (USPS 013028) is published Bi-Monthly by the Retiree Division of Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Periodicals Postage is paid at New York, NY. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Retiree News & Views at 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011-7296. 212-807-0555, retirees@local237.org, www.local237.org

GREGORY FLOYD
President

RUBEN TORRES
Vice President

EDMUND KANE
Secretary-Treasurer

JEANETTE I. TAVERAS
Recording Secretary

NANCY B. TRUE
Managing Editor

PHYLLIS SHAFRAN
Editor



Un libro histórico: Memoria de boricuas peregrinos*

Por Néstor Murray-Irizarry, editor
Diseño de portada: Felipe Cuchi
Para Nancy B. True



Photo by George Malave

La historia tiene dos expresiones o acepciones fundamentales: la primera es la llamada historia oral y la segunda es la escrita. Antes de la escritura los humanos, durante muchos años, se comunicaban a través de la palabra. Con la palabra y la memoria y en la memoria, se oraba, se expresaba el dolor y la alegría. Se narraban cuentos, leyendas y se alimentaba la memoria de grandes historias épicas. También se hablaba de las experiencias sobre los trabajos que realizaban los ricos y los pobres. Había juglares, que cual peregrinos cantores alegraban los caminos.

Para muchos estudiosos la historia oral "permite dar respuestas a los problemas que se derivan de la ausencia de fuentes escritas referidas a un determinado o a una determinada temática". [Allan Nevins] Otra investigadora comenta que la historia oral "... es la historia de las gentes sencillas, permitiéndonos conocer su estilo de vida y sus sistemas de valores y creencias." [Alice Kessler Harris]

Es así que los obreros, los trabajadores y sus gremios llenaban con la palabra los espacios del universo conocidos en esos tiempos. Estaban, al igual que todos nosotros haciendo historia oral. Con el paso de los años nació y se desarrolló la palabra impresa. Los seres humanos aprendieron a mirar la vida desde otra perspectiva: la palabra se asocio con la tinta y con las letras moldeadas sobre la piedra, la madera y el hierro. Así todo se fue complicándose hasta llegar a la postmoderna tecnología de la impresión digital.

En la tarde de hoy acogemos la palabra, la tuya y la nuestra, y la publicamos a través de la historia y de la entrevista abierta, en un libro totalmente impreso utilizando la tecnología digital. Pero, en realidad este nuevo libro sobre las memorias de boricuas peregrinos y jubilados del Local 237 de Nueva York, es uno histórico, de historia o sobre

la historia. Todas las anteriores son ciertas.

Esta edición recoge las palabras marcadas sobre un papel que ayer expresaron más de 30 jubilados de nuestra Local 237. Fueron mis palabras testigos de la inmensa pasión, alegría y firmeza con se dispararon, tantas veces, tantos días, en tantos momentos de historia personal o colectiva.

Este libro también es un sueño también hecho de muchas palabras, de mucha luz, ternura y amor. Se desarrolló entre Puerto Rico y Nueva York. Acogido el proyecto, sugerido por mí de hacer una serie de entrevistas en español y en Puerto Rico, por la Sra. Nancy True, el Sr. presidente Gregory Floyd y del vicepresidente Sr. Rubén Torres y así iniciamos nuestra tarea en Puerto Rico.

Mi función fue facilitar el proceso de las entrevistas y su edición; la transcripción de los datos se le debe al artista Edwin Gaud.

Pero donde y como se origino este proyecto. Era la primicia de un tipo de proyecto innovador y en español. Escuchemos.

Existe una hermosa e histórica ciudad nacida hace casi 500 años que está enclavada debajo de las nubes, un poquitito más arriba del horizonte. Esta posada sobre la Lomas de Santa Marta y se llama San Germán. Allí entre suspiros, sueños e ilusiones -rodeado de una elegante arquitectura- mientras Nancy True y el que suscribe estas notas contemplábamos esas bellezas, nació este gran proyecto.

Todo comenzó con una grabadora en mano y un cuestionario a cuestas. Una forma muy sencilla de preguntar y lograr respuestas espontaneas del entrevistado. Fueron muchos viajes a la isla, muchas horas de buen dialogo y en ocasiones se servía la buena mesa y saboreábamos, con los protagonistas de estas aventuras y sus esposas, los manjares criollos que tanto gusta al paladar boricua.

Para muchos sus trabajos siempre fueron retos y esperanzas. Para otros buena vida y esperanza. Siempre será una gran deuda con sus amigos y compañeros que les ayudaron a conseguir ingresar en la Local 237. Pues todos sabemos que levantar un hogar, una familia no es pellizco de ñoco. Es trabajo duro y del bueno. El sacrificio no es nunca moda, se logra con mucho amor. Es el gran esfuerzo que se nos mete por dentro y nos anima a seguir luchando todos los días de nuestras vidas. Es la querencia a veces personal, otras veces colectiva. ¿Que podemos hacer? Pues querer la vida, la vida que nos quiere, que nos quiere querer la vida. La vida es lucha toda por alcanzar el bien deseado.

Pero, ¿qué importancia tiene narrar las experiencias que tuviste en tu trabajo? NO IMPORTA LO MAS SENCILLA QUE HAYA SIDO.

Te mereces una contestación clara y concisa a esta pregunta. En primer lugar, las experiencias son sinónimos de la cultura de cada individuo y es a la misma vez el aprendizaje mas autentico de toda una vida. Es el espejo donde nos miramos y sobre el que reflexionamos como seres humanos. Es el tocador donde nos retocamos y nos autoevaluamos. Es la peinilla o el cepillo donde nos peinamos nuestras canas. Y así de sencilla es la vida. Estoy hablando de nuestra cultura, la puertorriqueña. Estoy enfatizando que tus experiencias que se publican en este libro valen tanto como cualquier otro libro de historia de Puerto Rico. Para mí fue un gran honor participar en este gran proyecto de amor. Estoy seguro que también lo fue para todos ustedes.

Muchas gracias. ■

*Leído el martes, 12 de marzo de 2019 en el Hotel Hilton Condado Plaza en la asamblea de los Puertorriqueños jubilados del Local 237 de Nueva York.

Retirees Celebrate Black History Month

"The Struggle Continues... And We Prevail"
The Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights, and Voter Suppression

Black History celebrations have been taking place throughout America in various forms for more than six decades. They serve to showcase our rich heritage of achievements as well as a call to action, underscored by the words of one of the most celebrated literary figures in the 20th Century, Langston Hughes, who wrote: "I swear the Lord, I still can't see why Democracy means everybody but me." And, former President Barack Obama who said: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek." Or, labor leader, A. Philip Randolph, who declared: "Freedom is never given. It is won."

The program featured Dominique Jean Louis from the New York Historical Society. Committee members **Cornnis Crawford**, **James Johnson** and **Rhonda Brown** made presentations on Pauli Murray, Medgar Evers and Aretha Franklin. The committee also presented awards to Division Secretaries **Shavon Banks** and **Noelia Quinones** for "Outstanding Service." ■



Rhonda Brown



Committee membes receive Activist Awards



Rhonda Brown, Nubia Imani Beazer and Cornnis Crawford



Noelia Quinones receives award.



James Johnson



Shavon Banks receives award.



What is Hospital Discharge planning?

Julie, Kobi, LMSW

Assistant Director, Teamsters Local 237 Retiree Division

A trip to the hospital can be filled with mixed emotions; fear, worries, unsettled feelings, and for some patients a sense of relief. These are all normal responses to a stressful time. When you're on your way to the hospital, discharge planning and returning home is likely the furthest thing from your mind. Your primary focus is on medical treatment.

While you are in the hospital, the major goal of your medical provider is to help you feel better. In addition, they want to provide as much information as possible to help reduce the chances of a hospital re-admission. The patient and their family as well as health care providers are part of a team that plays an essential role in determining the best discharge plan. Each discharge plan is individualized and based on a patient's specific health care needs.

Here's some information on discharge planning to think about.

What is discharge planning?

According to the Medicare Right's Center, hospital discharge planning is a process that determines the kind of care you need after you leave the hospital. Discharge plans can help prevent future re-admissions and they should make a move from the hospital to the home (or another facility) as safe as possible.

Who are the members of my discharge team?

The discharge planning team includes the patient, who is the most important person on the team. Also included are Medical Doctors, Registered Nurses, Medical Assistants, and Social Workers. The discharge planning team may also consist of other medical personnel. This is determined by your doctor and based on your specific medical needs.

Discharge planning checklist to keep in mind

- Will you need help at home after you are discharged from the hospital? Do you have options like visiting nurse services?
Please note services such as visiting nurse services are time limited so it's a good idea to have a backup plan for when services come to an end.
- Do you have a copy of your discharge summary? The discharge summary will have important information about your hospital stay, any changes to medications and/or diet. The summary may also include important information about medical follow up and specialty appointments. The discharge summary will also have information about who to call in the event you experience complications related to the hospitalization.
- Will you need any special equipment at home - such as a cane or walker? If so, where will the equipment come from? When will you receive it? If you don't receive it, who should you call?

- Have you filled all of your prescriptions? This will help you avoid extra trips to the pharmacy. Pick them up!!
- Do you understand your discharge plan? It's ok to ask questions. That's what the medical team is there for. If you get a little nervous around doctors, write your questions down. You are very important!
- As a part of your discharge planning team, Social Workers are available for support. A social worker can be a great resource for referring you to community services. These services can include: home care services, home delivered meals, transportation services and more. Ask the social worker if there are any support groups related to your illness. They can also advise you if you are eligible for care management programs.

Chronic Care Management

Hospitals frequently have special programs called chronic care management. These programs are for patients who have 2 or more chronic conditions that require additional support and closer medical follow up. These special care management programs offer additional social work support by coordinating patient care and medical appointments.

Health Care Proxy

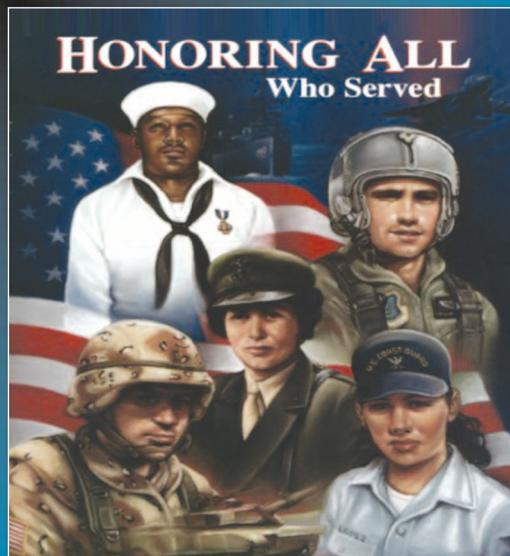
A health care proxy is a document you complete where you name someone as your proxy to carry out your wishes or your health care decisions. This is in the event you are unable to speak for yourself. Your health care proxy should always be someone you trust implicitly.

A health care proxy is one of your most important documents when you are admitted to the hospital. It ensures that your wishes are carried out the way you want. It is important that you have a detailed discussion with your proxy about your medical care. These are not easy conversations. However, they are amongst the most important conversations you will ever have. These discussions will give your proxy and family members' peace of mind that they are proceeding according to your wishes. As a former hospital social worker, I have seen firsthand the importance of having a health care proxy. You may want to consider making an appointment with the Local 237 Legal Services Plan to get a health care proxy form completed.

For a full comprehensive discharge planning check list go to:
<https://www.medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/11376-discharge-planning-checklist.pdf>

As always the Retiree Division is here to help if you have any question of concerns. Retiree Division staff may be reached at 212-807-0555. ■

The Retiree Division's Veterans' Committee is looking for new members



**Are you a veteran?
Interested in participating?**
Please call or visit Julie Kobi
at 212-807-0555 at the Retiree Division



Social Security Trust Fund Stronger than a Year Ago, According to Annual Trustees Report

Making Prescription Drugs More Affordable Would Strengthen Medicare for the Future

The following statement was issued by Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, regarding the latest Trustees reports.

"Despite unfounded 'doom and gloom' forecasts, Social Security is not in crisis. It will continue to be a robust cornerstone of a secure retirement for millions of current and future retirees.

"The Trustees report found that Social Security is even stronger than last year and can cover all payouts and expenses until 2035, a full year later than projected in the 2018 Trustees report.

"If no changes are made, the system will be able to pay retirees 75% of projected benefits after 2035. However, if we remove the cap on earnings subject to Social Security contributions for the wealthiest Americans, we can expand Social Security benefits, provide a more accurate formula for cost-of-living adjustments, and increase the system's long-term solvency.

"The Trustees also found that the Medicare Trust Fund for hospital care has sufficient funds to cover its obligations until 2026. To help strengthen Medicare, Congress and the Administration should rein in the cost of prescription drugs, which is a significant driver of health care costs. There is no reason that American consumers and taxpayers should continue to pay the highest prices in the world for medicines.

"Americans have earned their Social Security and Medicare benefits through a lifetime of hard work. We can best support current and future generations as they retire if we take common-sense steps today." ■



Adding Your Child to Your Deed

by **Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.**
 Director of Local 237, Legal Services Plan

I receive many calls from Local 237 retirees asking for assistance in adding their child or children to the Deeds to their homes. When I ask what the intended goal is, it is most often to avoid probate of a Will or to save the house from a possible Medicaid claim. Although there may be valid and good reasons for adding someone to the Deed to your home, there are also many reasons it may be a bad idea.

Most people do not realize that adding someone to your Deed is considered a gift by the IRS. In fact, you are giving away a portion of your property. The annual gift tax exclusion is \$15,000 but there is a lifetime gift tax exclusion of over \$11 million dollars. While a tax may not result, since the gift is most likely worth more than \$15,000, it should be reported on a gift tax return.

Many people have a mortgage on their home. That lien document states that you cannot transfer the Deed without paying the mortgage in full. While most lenders will not care if you add someone to your Deed, you must seek approval to do so.

Adding your child to your Deed means you now have a co-owner of your home. Many times clients tell me - "no, I'm really the owner, I am just adding my child for protection". This is not the case. For instance, you will need the consent of your child in order to sell your home, refinance your mortgage or take out an equity loan.

Lastly, in New York City, there are transfer taxes potentially due on the transfer. These forms, along with the new Deed will have to be recorded with the County. All of this means fees due to the State and City.

So, although there may be enough good reasons to add your child to the Deed to your home, there are many factors to consider before doing this.

Remember, you have a Legal Services Plan! Call (212) 924-1220 for assistance. ■



Prescription Drug Coverage Maintenance Choice: an Expanded Look

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

Over the past few weeks, staff in the Retirees' Benefit Fund and the Retiree Division have received many calls regarding changes in the prescription drug plan. Most of the calls have been related to the Maintenance Choice (MChoice) program.

The MChoice program offers several options which add a convenient way to receive your prescriptions. You may pick up your order in a CVS store. Or, you may have orders delivered to your home if you live within a 10-mile delivery radius of a CVS retail store. Delivery Hours are 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Orders must be placed by 4:00 pm to be received on the same day. Otherwise prescriptions will be delivered the next day by noon. On Demand (same day delivery) delivery will arrive within a 4hr window and cost \$7 for delivery. This is a separate delivery charge which is not part of claim adjudication or your pharmacy copay. Next Day delivery requests are delivered the following day and the cost is **\$0, yes FREE.**

Members may have maintenance and acute Rx delivered but excluded are controlled substances, cold-chain (refrigeration required) medications and specialty medications. Medications are delivered in tamper proof packaging without drug or personal info displayed and are delivered by a professional courier. A limited catalog of general merchandise items may be added to your order. Those items may vary by store so inquire at your store which items are included. In order to use this service you can call into the store to place your order with a CVS Pharmacy employee. You may also place and track your order through the CVS Pharmacy app or setup your order in a store with a CVS employee.

Hopefully one of these options will help you receive your medication in a way that best suits your needs. In today's world of high tech, let this program work for you and make receiving your medication convenient and hassle free.

We understand that, for some, change is not easy. However, these changes save money for the plan - and ultimately for you! While a few exceptions to the MChoice program have been put in place for those with extraordinary circumstances, the vast majority of our retirees will be able to participate in this program. One exception is for retirees residing in **Puerto Rico**. In Puerto Rico, the MChoice program is not able to be implemented due to the scarcity of CVS stores and because many retirees live in rural areas and only have a P.O. Box without home delivery.

Staff in the Retirees' Benefit Fund are available to help you, Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm. They can be reached at 212-924-7220. ■

RETIREE DIVISION PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE — Continued from the front...



Jose Melendez, Puerto Rico Retiree Coordinator



Displays with giveaways



Mitch Goldberg discusses benefits



Babel Ruiz sings Puerto Rican National Anthem.



Enjoying the luncheon



Pleneros perform at fiesta in Fajardo



Julie Kobi sings the National Anthem



Jeanette Taveras at the podium

Continued from the front

members of the Local were advanced in years. Yet, with the full support of union leadership, we were able to interview hundreds of members and preserve their stories. The work continues today.

Initially, the Oral History Project took place in New York City, Long Island and Florida. In 2014, at the Retiree Division's Puerto Rico Retiree Conference in San Juan, we had the good fortune of meeting Professor Nestor Murray-Irizarry, the founder and president of Casa Paoli in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Although our initial introduction involved a cultural presentation on mask making and Vejigantes, we knew that we had met a kindred spirit in Professor Murray-Irizarry. His lifelong work in preserving Puerto Rican culture, folklore and oral traditions reflected the same passion we felt preserving our history and oral traditions at Local 237. We asked him if he would join us in our efforts to preserve our history and his answer was a resounding YES! In 2015, the Oral History Project began in Puerto Rico.

Since 2015, the Puerto Rico Project has captured not only the history of our Puerto Rican membership - but also the experience of the Puerto Rican diaspora who made a "U-turn" to return to their homeland after a lifetime of work in New York City. The call of the island was always strong within the "Corazones Boricuas" of our Puerto Rican members. Our work in Puerto Rico reflects not only our Puerto Rican member's journey to New York City, but also their love for the Island of Puerto Rico. It also reflects their profound love for Teamsters Local 237.

For the support of this project by our President Gregory Floyd and Vice President Ruben Torres as well as the entire executive board, I am very grateful. To our retired members who shared their history and their love of the union - Mil gracias.

In Solidarity,
 Nancy B. True

Nancy B. True
 Director,
 Retiree Division
 Teamsters Local 237



Cathy Rice at the podium.

on a personal note... Condolences...

Condolences to the family of Retiree **Barbara Wilson Judd** who died on March 13, 2019.

Congratulations

Happy Birthday wishes to retired member, **Francisco Mendoza** who will be 100 years old on June 11th. Mr. Mendoza retired from NYCHA where he lived and worked for Nathan Strauss Houses. Daughter, Carmen Iris describes her father as a "great man and great family provider with a strong work ethic." She also said that her father enjoys listening to music and dancing, every day. Francisco and daughter Carmen live in Juncos, Puerto Rico.



Retiree Spring Luncheon



Retiree spring luncheon was well attended. The luncheon was organized by **Tony Cottone**. Everyone enjoyed the food and each others' company. Some of the attendees in the photo from left to right are **Bob Gerenstein, Tony Cottone, Paul DeRosa, Bob Goff** and **Caesar Gentile**. ■

Welcome Aboard



Local 237's Retiree Division welcomes **Julie Kobi** to the staff as the new Assistant Director. Julie has had a long and distinguished career working with older adults, most recently at Mt. Sinai's Martha Stewart Center for Living which specializes in treating older adults. Among her many skills and talents, Julie is proficient in Spanish, French and American Sign language. ■

RETIREE news & views

216 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10011



Affiliate of



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID AT
NEW YORK,
NY

MARCH/APRIL 2019

Retirees Celebrate Women's History Month

In March, throughout the nation, there were celebrations to mark Women's History Month. At Local 237, the Retiree Division took the opportunity to recognize the history and accomplishments of women in our society



Sarah Gordon Ph.D, guest speaker.



Local 237's Jeanette Taveras, Executive Board Trustee and Law Enforcement Business Agent

with a program that featured an informative discussion, led by Sarah Gordon, Ph.D, on how the New York City suffragette movement drew inspiration from and shared tactics with the labor movement. The topic was a perfect match in as much as the suffragette movement was actually born in New York State and the State also leads the nation in the highest percentage of union members. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Founders Day

Friday, June 14th
at the New York Hilton

Guest Speaker:
Congressman
Hakeem Jeffries



Why Wait
Until 40?....
The Retiree
Division at 39.

For more details and to
register, look for
a flyer in your mail.



NYCERS 2019 Pension Payment Calendar

Month	Check Mailed	Direct Deposit
January	January 29	January 31
February	February 26	February 28
March	March 27	April 01
April	April 26	April 30
May	May 29	May 31
June	June 26	July 01
July	July 29	July 31
August	August 28	September 03
September	September 26	September 30
October	October 29	October 31
November	November 27	December 02
December	December 27	December 31

If you receive your pension by Paper Check

Checks are mailed two (2) business days before the last day of the month and are made payable on the last day of the month. If the last day of the month falls on a weekend, the check is mailed on the Wednesday before the last day of the month.

To receive your pension payment by Direct Deposit instead of paper check, submit Form #380 - Authorization for Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) of Monthly Retirement Allowance, available at www.nycers.org. Direct Deposit is fast, easy, and trouble free - your funds are available immediately regardless of storms or natural disasters.

If you receive your pension by Direct Deposit

Funds are electronically deposited into your bank account on the last day of the month, providing it is a business day. If the last day of the month occurs on a weekend or holiday, the funds are deposited on the next business day.