

RETIREE news & views



A PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 237 RETIREE DIVISION

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Local 237 Retiree Division Social Hour

On June 7th the Retiree Division held its first Social Hour, an opportunity for retirees to connect with long time friends and make new ones. Social Hour included board games such as Scrabble, Jenga, introduction to Chess among others. Most importantly, there were tons of laughs and even a little dancing. Stay connected!

FOR A LISTING OF
RETIREE DIVISION
EVENTS, CHECK OUT
THE LOCAL 237 WEBSITE:
www.local237.org/retirees



Looking for information? We have you covered.

Membership Forms, Plan Descriptions, Direct Deposit and More
New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS)
By Mail: 30-30 47th Ave., 10th Fl., Long Island City, NY 11101
In Person: 340 Jay Street - Mezzanine, Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-643-3000 • www.nycers.org

Retirement Procedures & Benefits
Local 237 Teamsters Retiree Division
216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011
212-807-0555 • Retirees2@local237.org • www.local237.org

Dental, Eyeglasses, Prescription Plan, Hearing Aid Supplemental Medical Fund / Change of address
Local 237 Teamsters Retirees Benefit Fund
216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011
212-924-7220 • welfareinfo@local237.org

Assistance with Certain Legal Matters
Local 237 Legal Services Plan
216 West 14th Street, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10011 • 212-924-1220

*Administration of Health Insurance Benefits (All Retirees)
Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement Registration*
**NYC Employee Health Benefits Office
Office of Labor Relations**
22 Cortlandt Street, 12th Fl., New York, NY 10007
212-513-0470 • healthbenefits@olr.nyc.gov (for questions only)
www.nyc.gov/site/olr/index.page

Membership Forms, Plan Descriptions, Direct Deposit and More
NYC Board of Education Retirement System
65 Court Street, Room 1603, Brooklyn, NY 11201
929-305-3800 • www.bers.nyc.gov/site/bers/about/contact-bers.page



by **Gregory Floyd**

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

Here's something to think about that's sad but true: Labor unions in America are weaker than in other industrialized nations. Today, in our country, just 10% of all workers are in a union — the lowest amount since 1983. In the private sector, less than 7% of workers are in a union. This low overall membership number is largely because corporations have become very skilled at aggressively fighting unionization. And judicial rulings, including from the Supreme Court, have helped to erode organizing workers efforts that resulted in fewer workers seeing the value to becoming a union member... and even being discouraged from joining a labor union. The negative consequences are enormous. They are evident in countless ways, from diminished workers' protections to the diminished political power of labor unions. Getting workers' rights legislation passed in many states — and in Washington — is often met with insurmountable hurdles, where profit over people wins out and workplace safety takes a backseat to production quotas. It should be noted that despite the dismal numbers in overall union membership, conversely, in the public sector, 36% are union members — largely government workers. Unfortunately, this number may diminish too, due to such factors as the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned the Chevron Doctrine of 1984, that said the courts must defer to the knowledge and technical experience of appropriate federal agencies—like OSHA—when working out the nitty-gritty details of legislation.

But opportunities do exist to expand union membership. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, for example, has taken the initiative in a tireless, grass-roots recruitment campaign, that includes supporting Amazon workers in their organizing efforts. There are, however, other groups that also see an opportunity for recruitment—nonunion recruitment. For example, the New York City branch of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has expressed dissatisfaction with unions as not being aggressive enough on workers' rights and inequality issues pertaining to persons of color. This is counter to the fact that Blacks constitute the largest percentage of union workers at 11.8%, with whites at 9.8%, and Hispanics at 9%. Some DSAers have tried to work from within, attempting to gain a foothold in several unions by seeking labor endorsements for their candidacies or support for their policy initiatives. Vincent Alvarez, President of NYC Central Labor Council has been quoted as saying: "It makes no sense that at a time when solidarity is needed to fight for real gains in economic opportunity and social justice for working families that the DSA would sow the seeds of disunity by targeting some of the most

A Message From The President

Roadmap for Tomorrow

progressive unions in our city with plans for infiltration and disruption."

Labor unions need to get back to basics. It's long overdue. Even though Ralph Chaplin wrote the song "Solidarity Forever" in 1915 for the industrial workers of World War I, its refrain is as relevant and important today as it was more than 100 years ago: "*When the union's inspiration thru the worker's blood shall run, there can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun, yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one, but the union makes us strong. Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong.*" It is important to also keep in mind the words of other great advocates of labor unions, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy and even the Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Dr. King told us that "*The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standard of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them.*"

President Kennedy said: "*Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.*"

And President Eisenhower told us that America was better off because of unions and that "*Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.*"

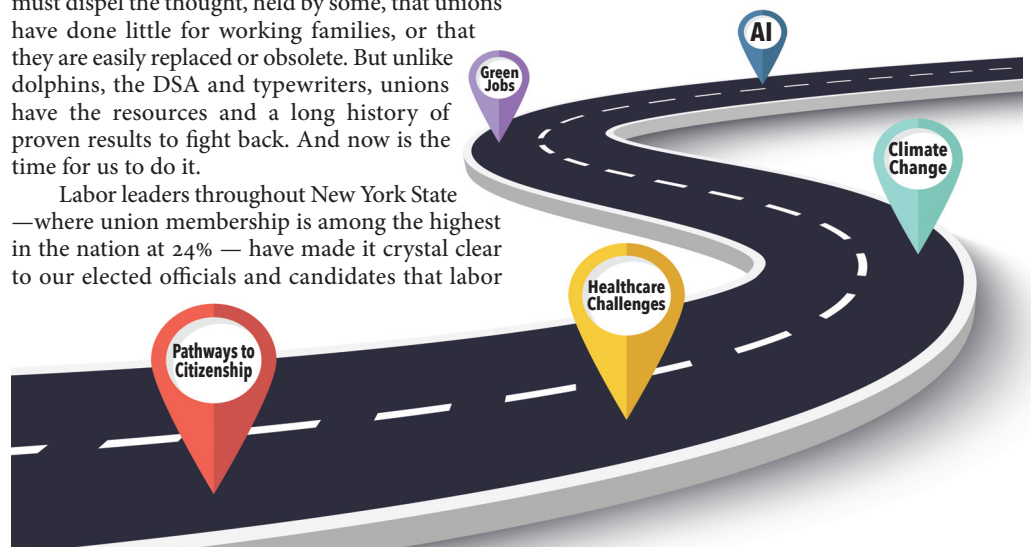
With so many of us now focusing on summer plans for some well-deserved "R&R", Labor Day may seem far away—or worse, an end to the fair-weather fun and something to avoid thinking about. Preparations for the Labor Day Parade along Fifth Avenue—held after the holiday on September 7 — are already underway, but in this current political climate, parades are not enough. There can no longer be more parade marchers than parade spectators. We need both. They symbolize that we can't let union membership become an endangered species. We must fight extinction! We must dispel the thought, held by some, that unions have done little for working families, or that they are easily replaced or obsolete. But unlike dolphins, the DSA and typewriters, unions have the resources and a long history of proven results to fight back. And now is the time for us to do it.

Labor leaders throughout New York State —where union membership is among the highest in the nation at 24% — have made it crystal clear to our elected officials and candidates that labor

unions matter. Not only did they build the middle class in America in the 1950's, but they are our nation's best means to ensure that future generations will have a middle class in 2050. We need to make sure now that our own children and grandchildren are not left out. No one can fault us for that and many should want to join us. We need to use every opportunity to remind our elected leaders that labor still has a powerful voice supported by millions of votes and campaign dollars. That always seems to get their attention!

One more thing: In New York, there is a sense that whether you're in a public or private union, we're all in the same family. An assault on one is an assault on all of us. The labor movement needs to approach future challenges, like we have done before when facing other major challenges: with unity and fervor. It's all but certain that we will fight our fights mostly on our own. That does not mean we shouldn't seek allies. Certainly, mutual interests can bring together even the most unlikely bedfellows. We sought and received the help of non-union groups in the past who saw the push to lessen the role of labor unions for what it really is: An attack on democracy perpetrated by the special interests of the well-funded corporate 1%. But simply: There is no substitute for labor unions. Sometimes we forget that. Some never knew that or ignored the fact. But history reaffirms: The 40-hour work week, health benefits, workplace safety standards, \$17 an-hour minimum pay, paid vacation and family leave are just some of our hard fought—and won — battles. Also, history teaches us that especially in times of crisis...from World Wars to pandemics, labor unions proved to be not just about a movement, or a moment. They consist of dedicated workers and leaders who pitch in...who take charge...who are relied upon to quell fear, hold a hand, and provide a way that lets everyone feel, they are going to be okay.

In a world with so much chaos and change both man-made and natural, now is the time to understand that unions are a stabilizing force. Unions represent a unique combination: aggressive, progressive and necessary. Our history proves it. Our history didn't begin today. Our history is a roadmap for tomorrow. ■





A Message From The Director

The Importance of Preserving Union History: Your Union, Your Story

by Julie Kobi LMSW
Director of the Retiree Division

As the summer and heat waves are upon us, what better time is there to reflect upon your union history. Webster defines preservation as: “The activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay.” We need your help to ensure we have our union history preserved — you have a story to tell. Union history is similar to keeping a legacy alive and without knowing the union history — victories and challenges — those after us will never know the entire story. When we published our second oral history book entitled, *Solidarity, Pride, Struggle*, it was said that the book provided a rich history lesson. The book is a collection of retirees sharing their stories dating from 1993 to the present date.

Here is a brief overview of how The Oral History Project came about, especially for our new retirees: The Oral History Project was started in 1993 by the late Nancy B. True, who understood the importance of union history preservation. Under her leadership, the project involved interviewing retired members, founders, and builders of union and collecting artifacts. Today, Local 237 continues the Oral History Project by accumulating photos, interviews and memorabilia from over the years, preserving our rich union history. We learn so much from all of you by listening to the joys, struggles and strong connection you have to the union.

The Oral History Project needs you. You hold the key to the important stories. Some of the stories live in our heads and hearts or maybe tucked away in a little box filled with momentos. The Oral History Project captures the beauty of the day-to-day as well as collective struggles to achieve a better quality of life through union membership. We want to hear your story and for you to take part in the next Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project. If you would like to share your story, please contact the Retiree Division at 212-807-0555 or email us at retirees2@local237, subject line: Tell us your story. ■

“
TELL US
YOUR
STORY
”

Take part in the next Teamsters
Local 237 Oral History Project.

Call:
212-807-0555

or Email:
retirees2@local237

Subject line: Tell us your story

Origen de la música en los Andes

Por Néstor Murray-Irizarry

Historiador y gestor cultural

murraynestor@gmail.com | www.casapaolipr.com



Para los latinoamericanos o sus descendientes, que forman parte de la familia de nuestra Local.

I. Cesar Bolaños (Lima) compositor de música clásica y musicólogo. Como musicólogo, ha emprendido diversas investigaciones emparentadas con la arqueología y la electrónica, y ha publicado libros y artículos, entre ellos *La música en el Antiguo Perú* (1985), *Las Antaras Nasca* (1988) y *La música nacional en los medios de comunicación electrónicos de Lima Metropolitana* (1996).

II. Bolaños, compositor e historiador de la música y sus instrumentos en el antiguo Perú, nos regala un importante libro que nos descubre la extraordinaria diversidad de instrumentos musicales y objetos sonoros prehispánicos (antes de la llegada de los europeos a esa región) usados en la organización de los rituales productivos, religiosos y políticos. Desde su saber de etnomusicólogo nos describe las características y posibilidades musicales de los diversos tipos de flautas de Pan mochicas, de las antaras, trompetas y timbales de Nasca; de las flautas traveseras de Chancay; de las quenás y vasijas silbadoras de las de las culturas norandinas y de los tambores y runatingas incaicos. También nos informa sobre los usos de los vasos y platos - sonajas, ocarinas y una multiplicidad de silbatos. *Orígenes de la música en los Andes* es un riguroso trabajo de investigación escrito con sencillez, sin duda una obra fundamental para el pleno conocimiento del Perú andino.

II. Para Bolaños las expresiones modernas de vanguardia de la producción musical exigen un complemento en la investigación histórica como en la etnomusicología. A ese respecto tendríamos que mencionar su artículo titulado “El Estado no canta ni baila”, donde critica a un ministro de Edu-

cación, además de otros artículos similares, y publicaciones sobre musicología (1982) y el sugestivo trabajo “Fiesta y psiquiatría popular en San Pedro de Casta” (1983), para seguir con su ensayo “La música andina en el Perú” (1999). Ya en 1978 estudió los instrumentos musicales arqueológicos existentes en el Museo Nacional de Antropología y Arqueología de Lima. Años después realizó una investigación específica sobre “La música de la Cultura Nasca” y otra sobre “La música de los Incas”. Así como investigaciones sobre la producción musical en las Culturas Chiribaya y Arica, las flautas Moche y las botellas silbadoras norandinas.

III. De algún modo todas estas preocupaciones de tantos años están condensadas en este libro de Bolaños, que aquí estamos reseñando. El autor distingue tres zonas musicales en su área de estudio: norte, intermedia y surandina. Esta zonificación será válida incluso hoy día después de quinientos años de presencia occidental. Dentro de estas agrupaciones principales las sociedades del Formato Andino desarrollaron modelos tecnológicos propios, así como las respectivas fórmulas escalares. En la evolución de este universo musical hay que considerar el impacto de nuevos materiales como la cerámica y el metal en la confección de instrumentos musicales.

IV. Esta música andina (o músicas andinas) era una herramienta necesaria en el desarrollo del aparato social correspondiente (político, religioso y productivo). En términos generales por otro lado la música de la región andina, marca diferencias con respecto a la región mesoamericana. Bolaños insiste, además, en la permanencia de la creatividad y costumbres propiamente andinas aun después de la presencia occidental que introdujo un nuevo universo incluyendo instrumentos hasta entonces no conocidos en nuestra área (los cordófonos). Pese a lo cual Bolaños insiste en que los límites geográficos, organográficos de las zonas y áreas antiguas son más o menos semejantes a los contemporáneos.

V. El libro de Bolaños está dividido en cinco capítulos. Su primer capítulo se concentra en precisar cuáles fueron los instrumentos musicales en el área andina. El segundo contiene una hipótesis, a través de mapas y cuadros sobre los límites geográficos de las culturas y sus instrumentos sonoros y musicales. El tercer capítulo se verifica la ubicación de los instrumentos en el día de hoy para terminar con un estudio sobre lo que ocurrió después de la presencia occidental con los instrumentos musicales andinos. ■



United Healthcare Update

by **Diana Nappi**

Director of the Retiree Benefit Fund

Greetings Retirees! With the recent retirement of Mitch Goldberg as Director, I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Director of Welfare Funds, my name is Diana Nappi. I bring with me a background of 20 plus years' experience in benefits administration with a dedicated focus on the wonderful benefits of the union world.

Since the transfer of Healthplex to United Healthcare (UHC) the Welfare Fund has worked tirelessly with the carriers to resolve the various issues that you may have experienced since the January 1, 2024, transition. UHC has taken many steps to resolve these issues and has assured us that the dental benefit plan will resume as normal, soon.

Retirees are encouraged to create an account on the myuhc.com website so you can utilize many of the on-line tools regarding your benefits. You can view processed claims as well as print a copy of your ID card. Remember no insurance forms are necessary. Just present your ID card to your provider and always remember to confirm if they are In-Network. **You can contact United Healthcare directly at 877-591-1789.**

It is always best when you can, to utilize an In-Network provider to minimize your out-of-pocket costs.

- \$1250 Yearly Max Annual Benefit/Family Member. (cap)
- 5000+ Dentists in the Metro Network.
- No charge for services listed on the schedule of benefits when using a participating dentist up to the annual maximum. You can contact United Healthcare directly to request a copy at 1-877-591-1789.
- For Retirees living out of the Metro Area, such as Florida and Puerto Rico, the Metro with Out of Area PPO20 is available to you.
- No forms needed. An ID card is provided to eligible participants.

OTHER KEY NUMBERS:

Teamsters Local 237 Retirees' Benefit Fund Prescription benefits, dental, optical benefits, hearing aids and supplemental medical expenses for DME (durable medical equipment). 216 West 14th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10011; (212)-924-7220 (M-F 8:30 am – 5:00 pm) or email us directly at welfarefund@local237.org.

Teamsters Local 237 Retiree Division Activities for retired members, assistance with personal concerns, membership and cultural activities, neighborhood meetings, benefits education and more. (212)-807-0555 (M-F 8:30 am – 5:00 pm).

Your President, Gregory Floyd and the Local 237 Executive Board are committed to ensuring that our slogan: *"Retired from Work, not from the Union"* is reflected in the delivery of quality services to our retired members. The staff of the Retirees' Benefit Fund is here to help. ■



Understanding Grief

by **Edith Johnston, LCSW**

Deputy Director, Retiree Division

Grief is a natural response to loss. It's the emotional suffering you feel when something or someone you love is taken away. Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. You may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. Grief is not something you overcome, it's something you manage. We often associate grief with the loss of someone we love, but grief can be caused by any significant loss.

Kubler-Ross's five stages of grief include:

1. Denial, avoidance, confusion, elation, shock and fear. This is the stage that can help you survive the loss.
2. Anger, frustration, irritation and anxiety. This is the stage that starts to wonder 'why me?' and think that life is not fair.
3. Bargaining is the struggle to find meaning, reaching out to others, telling one's story.
4. Depression – overwhelmed, helplessness, hostility and flight. It can be the feeling of emptiness that we feel when we are living in reality, and we realize the person is gone.
5. Acceptance – exploring options, putting new plans in place, and moving on. The grieving person realizes that they are going to be okay somehow.

Whatever your loss, it's personal to you, so don't feel ashamed about how you feel, or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things. If the person, animal, relationship, or situation was significant to you, it's normal to grieve the loss you're experiencing. Whatever the cause of your grief, though, there are healthy ways to cope with the pain that, in time, can ease your sadness and help you come to terms with your loss, find new meaning, and eventually move on with your life. Life may never feel the same, but you can rebuild your life around your grief. ■

"Strength is allowing yourself to be vulnerable, to be real, and to answer honestly any questions you are posed on a daily basis on your emotional state."

— Jeff Brazier, life coach and neurolinguistic programming practitioner



It's A (Re)Balancing Act – Part II

by **David Bonington, CFP®**

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

I could easily have titled this article "An Rx for Employee X." If you missed Part I in the March/April article, we left Employee X in a predicament. "Employee X" is a hypothetical 55-year-old who for 25 years contributed funds into a workplace retirement plan while specifying a 75% Stock/25% Bond allocation. (Employee X also has a 401(k) account from a prior employer, which was funded using a 90% Stock/10% Bond split between the ages of 22-30.) The total value of these accounts has grown nicely over time, but Employee X was recently startled to see that the Stock portion of these accounts was a sky-high 95%.

How did this happen? As they are likely to do over time, the Stocks grew at faster rates than the Bonds. The account "pie charts" are both bigger - but the percentage of each that Bonds represent are now mere 5% slivers. Meanwhile, at 55, Employee X's risk tolerance is not what it was at 22, 30, or 40-something: the safety of Bonds is gaining appeal. What should Employee X do? Re-Balance!

Precise re-balancing strategy depends on (1) the percentage of assets that Employee X wants to hold in Bonds and (2) the speed with which this result is desired.

STRATEGY #1 (Slow but Steady): If Employee X plans to work another 10 years and would be satisfied gradually restoring an approximate 75%/25% split at retirement, future payroll contributions could be shifted 100% to Bonds. This strategy might restore the Bond portion of the accounts to a percentage somewhere between 20%-30% at the time of retirement.

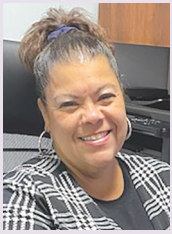
STRATEGY #2 (Immediate Action): If Employee X decides that any Stock percentage above 75% is simply too high, there is no choice: Stocks will have to be sold, with proceeds applied to buy Bonds. (For extreme shifts, however, depending on market conditions this strategy might be better carried out over a few weeks or months rather than on a single day.)

STRATEGY #3 (Hybrid Approach): This strategy would combine features of the first two, with a near-term reduction in Stocks to maybe 80% (using Strategy #2) and Strategy #1 setting in motion a further but more gradual increase in Bonds. This approach could reduce the Stock percentage to less than 60% at retirement - which might also be a desirable goal.

There is no one-size-fits-all strategy - each one must be customized to account for the portfolio at hand and the investor's goals and risk tolerance. The main point of this article is that a careful study of portfolio composition is worthwhile. Over time, need for near-term (or eventual) re-balancing becomes visible in most portfolios.

If a Stacey Braun planner can assist you by shining - what else? - an "X-Ray" through your portfolio pie chart to help assess re-balancing need, why not make an appointment this Summer? ■





Vision Health Impacts More Than Sight

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

May was Healthy Vision Month 2024. It focused on vision loss and mental health. Vision loss can have a major impact on every part of life. It can create challenges in performing everyday tasks. The stigma around losing vision can be isolating — causing feelings of fear, anxiety, or grief. But you're not alone.

The United States has an epidemic of isolation and loneliness. That's why Healthy Vision Month 2024 focused on helping people with a visual impairment know how to access vision rehabilitation services, mental health support, and social connection.

Low vision is a vision problem that makes it hard to do everyday activities. It can't be fixed with glasses, contact lenses, or other standard treatments like medicine or surgery. Low vision can affect daily activities such as reading, driving, recognizing people's faces, and seeing your television or computer screen clearly.

The types of low vision that you have depend on the disease or condition that caused it. The most common types of low vision are central vision loss (not being able to see things in the center of your vision), peripheral vision loss (not being able to see things out of the corners of your eyes), night blindness (not being able to see in low light), and blurry or hazy vision.

There are many different eye conditions that can cause low vision, but the most common causes are age-related macular degeneration (AMD), cataracts, diabetic retinopathy (a condition that can cause vision loss in people with diabetes) and glaucoma.

Low vision is more common in older adults because many of the diseases that can cause it are more common in older adults. Aging doesn't cause low vision on its own. Eye and brain injuries and certain genetic disorders can also cause low vision.

Your doctor can check for low vision as part of a dilated eye exam. The exam is simple and painless. Unfortunately, low vision is usually permanent. Eyeglasses, medicine, and surgery can't cure low vision — but sometimes they can improve vision. Treatment options will depend on the specific eye condition that caused your low vision. Ask your doctor about treatments that could improve your vision or help protect your remaining vision.

If you have low vision, you can find ways to make the most of your vision. If your vision loss is minor, you may be able to make small changes to help yourself see better. You can do things like use brighter lights at home or work, wear anti-glare sunglasses, or use a magnifying lens for reading.

If your vision loss is getting in the way of everyday activities, a specialist can help. Some strategies can include things like using a magnifying device for reading, setting up your home so you can move around easily, and access to resources to help you cope with your vision loss. There is hope and you are not alone. For further information check out <https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health>.



Food Insecurities

by **Elaine Williams, LMSW**
Assistant Director, Retiree Division

As the price for groceries and other essential household bills have increased, American households are struggling to keep up with the pressures of their food budgets. Food insecurities, which is described as having limited or uncertain access to enough food to support a healthy lifestyle are increasing. This increase is primarily affecting lower-income households. 44.2 million people in the United States are food insecure. (USDA, Economic Research Service, 2022). Healthy bodies and minds require nutritious meals at every age. But when people don't have enough food or must choose inexpensive foods with low nutritional value, it can seriously impact their health. And once the cycle of poor diet and poor health begins, it can be hard to break. Nutritious meals are key to maintaining good health. At the same time, quality food is expensive.

What Food Assistance Programs Are Available?

Free food assistance programs funded by the government include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) you must meet certain financial requirements to receive food assistance.
- Expedited Food Stamp
- Emergency Food Assistance Program

In addition, there are several programs from nonprofit organizations and charities, including: food banks, food pantries, the Salvation Army, non-profit Community Action Agencies and Feeding America are just a few programs that can provide assistance with food.

Throughout New York City, each borough has senior centers funded by the Department for The Aging. These senior centers usually provide daily low-cost hot meals, that can also be used to supplement one's nutritional intake.

The Meals on Wheels Program also provides home cooked meals delivered to home bound individuals who qualify for services. Your local Department for the Aging will also be able to provide assistance and guidance on how to access these services on a borough-by-borough basis.

In 2020, at least 60 million people in the United States turned to food banks, food pantries, and other community food programs for help feeding themselves and their families. That's 1 in every 5 people. Remember food insecurities happens to people of all races and ethnicities. Everyone needs nutritious food to thrive don't hesitate to contact the numerous organizations in your individual boroughs and state to access the help you need. www.feedingamerica.org.



Understanding the need for a representative payee

by **Ravi Gopaul** Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

You may know someone who gets a monthly Social Security benefit or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment and who also needs help managing their money. We can appoint a person or an organization to act as a "representative payee" responsible for receiving and managing a person's Social Security benefits or SSI payments.

When we assign a representative payee, we select someone who knows the beneficiary's needs and can make decisions about how to best use their benefits for their care and well-being. An application is required, and an in-person interview may be needed. You can call us at 1-800-772-1213 to schedule an appointment.

Most representative payees are responsible for completing an annual form to account for the

benefit payments they receive and manage. They must complete this form and return it to Social Security by mail or, if they have a personal *my* Social Security account, they can file it online using the Representative Payee portal. Account holders can also get a benefit verification letter and manage direct deposit and wage reporting for their beneficiaries. Learn more about the portal at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/rep-payee.

You also have the option to identify up to 3 people to serve as your future representative payee and help manage your benefits, if the need arises. We call this Advance Designation. We offer Advance Designation to capable adults and emancipated minors who are applying for or already receiving Social Security benefits, SSI, or Special Veterans



Benefits. With Advance Designation, you and your family can enjoy peace of mind knowing someone you trust may be appointed to manage your benefits. Find more information about:

- Advance Designation at www.ssa.gov/payee/advance_designation.
- Representative Payees at www.ssa.gov/payee.
- Publications about representative payees at www.ssa.gov/payee/newpubs.

If you know someone who needs help managing their monthly benefits, please consider becoming a representative payee. You can also help by sharing this information with friends and family. ■

on a personal note...
In Memoriam



To the family of retiree Daniel Ash, retired Custodian with the Department of City Administrative Services passed on 5/4/2024. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family.

RETIREE news & views

216 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10011



Affiliate of



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID AT
NEW YORK,
NY



**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.

JULY/AUGUST 2024

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 237**

216 West 14th St., 3rd Fl.
New York, NY 10011

**Welfare Fund Number
212-924-7220**

**Fax Number
212-675-7861**

UNITED HEALTHCARE/DENTAL: 877-591-1789

AETNA RX/MEDICATION: 855-352-1599

CPS OPTICAL: 212-675-5745

GVS OPTICAL - ONLY OUTSIDE THE NYC TRISTATE:
800-847-4661

OFFICE OF LABOR RELATIONS: 212-513-0470

NYCERS PENSION: 347-643-3000

BOARD OF EDUCATION RETIREMENT: 929-305-3800

LABOR DAY CELEBRATIONS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
**LABOR DAY
PARADE**
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 7th

Local 237 Kicks Off at: 1:00PM

Location: West 47th St. between 5th & 6th Avenues



**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
FREE TEE SHIRTS AND FOOD**

**LABOR MASS
& BANNER PROCESSION**



All
Are
Welcome



WE CELEBRATE THE DIGNITY OF THE WORKER

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 8:30AM
SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL**

5th Avenue
between 50th & 51st Streets
New York, NY 10022

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: (212) 604-9552
Email: info@nycclc.org
Website: nycclc.org

Please arrive by
8:00AM for a
banner procession
preceding Mass

**Parade Viewing
Bleacher Tickets Available**

The bleacher location is at the end
of the parade (Around 64th St. on 5th Ave.)

Limited availability.

Call 212-924-2000 after August 15