

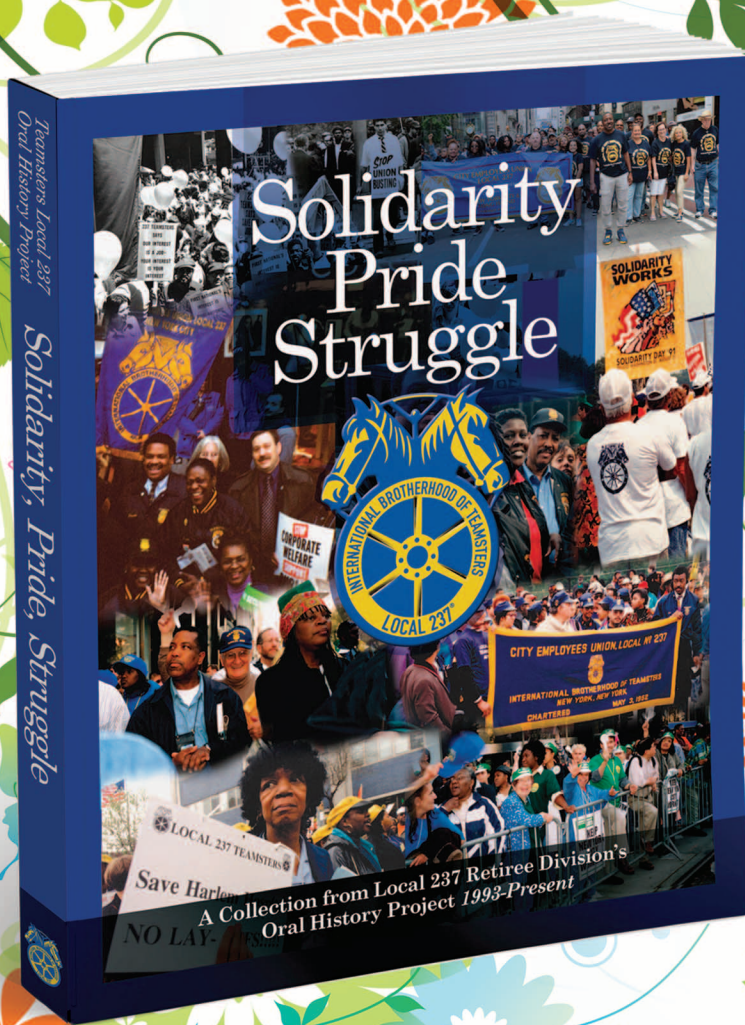
RETIREE

# news & views



A PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 237 RETIREE DIVISION

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## The Vines That Tie...

It is said that vines occupies a unique place among plants. Instead of relying on their own fiber to provide support, they make use of any nearby structure to guide them upward while they grab hold with either tendrils or rootlets. In many ways, our second Oral History Book, *Solidarity, Pride, Struggle*, suggests that vines deeply connected us to each other and the union, creating a rich union history. We are very pleased to share excerpts from our second Oral History book, and we look forward to sharing the entire book with you in the near future.

See excerpts from  
**Solidarity, Pride, Struggle**  
throughout this edition.

## Welcome New Retirees

Recently retired and happy in their new stage of life.



**Leon Lawson**  
Retired from NYCHA  
9/1/2021



**Annette Franco**  
Retired from School Safety  
1/31/2022



**Angel Class**  
Retired from NYCHA  
1/1/2022

The Retiree Division staff would like to congratulate you on your retirement. You join the Local 237 Retiree Division Family with over 11,300 retirees residing across the United States and Puerto Rico. We understand that retiring in general can be very exciting and tense, especially during a pandemic. But you persevered and you did it! You have left behind work routines, co-workers, and friends, to start a new chapter in your life.

Retirement comes with benefits as a member of Teamsters Local 237. To assist with the transition into retirement life, we have prepared a new retiree orientation online. This orientation is available to access at your convenience. Log on to the Local 237 website, [www.local237.org](http://www.local237.org), click on retirees, and the new retiree orientation is there for you. If you do not have access to a computer, you can call the Retiree Division staff at 212-807-0555 and a Retiree Division staff member can review benefits with you, and answer any questions.

The Retiree Division staff are here to assist, support, and guide you through this special time in your life. Local 237 remains with you throughout your life. **Retired from work...not from the union.**





### by Gregory Floyd

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

**S**inger-songwriter Sheryl Crow memorably said about spring: “No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere.” In our 2-year battle with Covid 19, her comment is most fitting. And both Mother Nature and human nature seem to agree since buds appear on the branches, daylight lasts a little longer, and we push our snow boots and earmuffs to the back of the closet. As the Covid chaos seems to be subsiding, allowing restrictions to ease, the feeling is that spring has sprung, ushering in new beginnings, a sense of hope, and inspiration.

So much has been written about the season. Toni Morrison, the recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, wrote: “When spring comes to the City, people notice one another in the road; notice the strangers with whom they share aisles and tables... It’s the time of year when the City urges contradiction most, encouraging you to buy street food when you have no appetite at all; giving you a taste for a single room occupied by you alone as well as a craving to share it with someone you passed in the street.

### A Message From The President

# The Hope of Spring – Growth and Change –

Really there is no contradiction—rather it’s a condition...” The Ghanaian founder of Smart Youth Volunteer Foundation, Lailah Gifty Akita, calls spring: “A season for the soul to regain its strength.” Even comedian Robin Williams had an opinion on spring, calling it, “Nature’s way of saying Let’s Party.”

It is no coincidence that Easter and Passover are spring holidays. The renewal of nature that comes with spring amplifies the promise of redemption embedded in the historical events being commemorated by both religions. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. Around the same time — and often overlapping — Jewish people celebrate Passover, the holiday commemorating the Hebrews’ exodus from slavery in Egypt. In both holidays, festivals, nature, and history converge with a resounding message of hope. They are about delivery from a state of despair. Easter assures the individual that life is eternal. It offers a way out of a world beyond repair. It celebrates a religion that provided comfort to many who had lost faith in the gods of Rome. It spreads the message that the death of one has the capacity to save many. Passover summons Jews collectively into the world to repair it. Among its messages is that a tyrant-like Pharaoh could be overthrown. A nation as powerful as ancient Egypt could be defeated. Slaves could become free men. The oppressed could break the shackles of their captivity. Anything is possible, if only we dare to

dream the impossible dream.

It was the biblical record of the exodus from Egypt that enabled the spirit of optimism to prevail for the followers of Martin Luther King Jr. in their quest for equal rights, because they were stirred by the vision of Moses leading his people to the Promised Land. In fact, the historic speech that King delivered at the Mason Temple in Memphis, where he went on April 3, 1968, to support sanitation workers protesting their meager wages of \$1.65 an hour and deplorable working conditions, contained the prophetic line: “I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.” He was assassinated the next day. It was ironic that many of King’s supporters, aides and confidants had urged him against expanding their focus and leaving their comfort zone to take on new causes, such as the Poor People’s Campaign which he was pushing. King would have none of it. Instead, he urged the sanitation workers to go on strike, telling them: “You have to escalate the struggle a bit.” And he countered the narrow focus of his allies with: “We have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society.”

We hope that the history of our nation continues to reflect the rebirth that is springtime and acknowledges Dr. King’s admonition that “change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.” ■

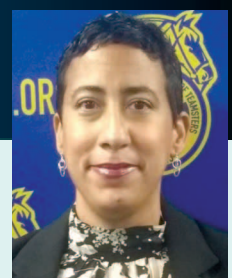
### A Message From The Director

## The Importance of the Oral History Project: Your Union, Your story

**I**n December 2021, the second oral history book entitled *Solidarity, Pride, Struggle* was published. The book is a collection of retirees sharing their stories started in 1993 by the late **Nancy B. True**, who truly 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, the Local continues to maintain the oral history project, including photos, interviews and memorabilia over the

years, to preserve such a rich union history. In the Retiree Division, we learn so much from all of you, and listen to the joys and struggles and strong connection to the union. We are truly grateful that the oral history project has been able to capture and enlighten where we are today. As retirees, you have paved the way for the future generations. In many ways the Oral History book serves as a history lesson to show how far we have come. We are grateful to all the retirees who have taken the time to share their experiences from 60 years ago to the present.

The Oral History Project still needs you. You hold the keys to the important stories that live in our head and hearts, and maybe a little box under your bed filled with mementos. We’re very fortunate to have two books — the first *Memoria Boricas Peregrinos* and now a second — *Solidarity, Pride, Struggle*. This oral history 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. Take part in the Teamsters Local 237 Oral History Project. ■



by Julie Kobi LMSW  
Director of the  
Retiree Division

### RETIREE news & views

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**Call us at  
212-807-0555  
to share your  
story.**



## Supplemental Medical Expense Benefit

by **Mitch Goldberg**

Director of the Retiree Benefit Fund

**T**he Supplemental Medical Expense Benefit is designed to supplement your existing health insurance coverage provided by the City of New York. This benefit is available to you and your eligible dependents who are covered under the Teamsters Local 237 Retirees' Benefit Fund.

### Here's how it works:

The Supplemental Medical Expense Benefit reimburses eligible retirees and their eligible dependents for durable medical equipment (DME) and one-time medical supplies which have been approved by the Board of Trustees. An attending physician must deem the equipment as medically necessary and a claim must be submitted first to your primary insurance carrier for payment.

The Fund provides benefit coverage, at 80% of the reasonable and customary cost, for purchases and rental of equipment and medical supplies including: Hospital beds, wheelchairs, braces, prosthetic devices, orthotics, orthopedic shoes, surgical stockings, equipment connected with oxygen therapy, CPAP machines and related equipment.

The cap for reimbursement for the expenses is \$2,500 per family per year.

### How to file a claim:

The procedure for filing a Claim is as follows:

First, file your claim with the health insurance carrier plan (for example: GHI, HIP-HMO, Blue Cross) that covers you and your dependents. If there is still an outstanding expense incurred after all payments have been made under the Base Plan and any other insurance plan, call the Fund Office (212-924-7220) and request a supplemental expense claim form. Complete all sections of the claim form. Attach itemized bills, proof of any payments made toward your claim and copies of reimbursements made by your Base Plan or other insurance plans. Mail the claim form and all required information to the Fund Office.

If you or your spouse are eligible for Medicare, the procedure for reimbursement is similar to the procedure described above, except that the Supplemental Medical Expense Benefit is subject to Coordination of Benefits with both Medicare and your secondary health insurance coverage.

Retirees' Benefit Fund staff are available to help you. Feel free to contact us at 212-924-7220 if you have questions about this benefit or other benefits available through the Fund. ■

## Para espantar el olvido

## Mujeres: siluetas históricas



Por **Néstor Murray-Irizarry**  
historiador y gestor cultural

**L**amentablemente y por diversas razones, el valioso trabajo realizado por un grupo significativo de grandes mujeres no ha tenido la divulgación necesaria y el reconocimiento de muchos medios de comunicación en nuestros países. El conocimiento de las grandes gestas de nuestras mujeres solidifica la zapata de nuestra sociedad. Las mujeres deben ser fuentes de inspiración, no tan solo de boleros y canciones de amor, sino también del amor no sensual, el verdadero amor espiritual-emocional tan indispensable a toda hora; que la sola presencia de su sombra, o el sencillo recuerdo de su luz y su presencia, siempre nos acaricie, como nos acaricia la buena brisa cuando estamos junto al mar. Esta columna está dedicada a las **mujeres** que luchan, hoy por sobrevivir en **Ucrania** y a las **maestras** que también luchan por sobrevivir en **Puerto Rico**.

### I Ucrania

**Nataliia Polonska-Vasilenko** nació el 12 de febrero de 1884 en Járkiv. Fue una de las más notables historiadoras del siglo XX. En 1940 recibió su doctorado y se convirtió en profesora en la universidad. Fue la primera doctora en historia en la historia de Ucrania. Durante la ocupación nazi dirigió el archivo central de documentos antiguos.

En la década de 1960 tomó parte activa en el establecimiento de la Asociación Histórica de Ucrania en EEUU, y fue su vicepresidenta en 1965.

Polonska-Vasilenko era especialista en arqueología de Ucrania, en historia de la Rus de Kyiv, la historia de los kozakos zaperocos y la de su propia época. Durante la década de los 1920 también publicó intensamente en los varios periódicos de la Academia de Ciencias. Escribió varios ensayos sobre la vida de intelectuales en la Ucrania invadida por los soviéticos, incluida la de la Academia de Ciencias (2 volúmenes, entre 1955 y 1958), publicó un libro sobre la represión de Stalin sobre los historiadores ucranianos (1962) y, ya cerca del final de su vida, dos volúmenes sobre la historia general de Ucrania (1973-1976).

### II Puerto Rico

**Margarita Trina Callejo Correa**, mejor conocida como Margarita Callejo, nació en Utuado el 23 de mayo de 1892. Fue la inspiración para que su padre, Fernando Callejo y Ferrer (1862-1926) escribiera la primera historia de la música en Puerto Rico. El libro se publicó en 1915 y se tituló **Música y músicos portorriqueños**.

Margarita se destacó como cantante de ópera. En 1910 regresó a su país con su hermana Carlota. Hacía dos años que se encontraban estudiando en Lexington, Ohio. Estudió canto y piano; y su hermana, piano y violín. Sin embargo, Margarita sobresalía como cantante, lo que la hizo acreedora de alabanzas, volviéndose la predilecta de sus profesores, que vieron para ella un brillante porvenir.

Su padre, anheloso de completar su educación artística, se propuso, por recomendación de la maestra de canto, enviar a Margarita al conservatorio de música de Milán. Fernando acudió a la Legislatura para que le apoyaran económicamente. Sus estudios en la Academia de Ohio contribuyeron a una serie de triunfos, pues aprobó con la máxima puntuación todos los cursos del segundo año de escuela superior.

Además, en ese mismo plantel académico ella, por su hermosa y bien timbrada voz de tiple, obtuvo una medalla de oro en la clase de música y canto. Estas cualidades meritorias la presentaron ante su país como una firme esperanza para el arte puertorriqueño. La única alternativa que tenía la familia Callejo para ayudar a Margarita a cultivar sus facultades era que el país subvencionara parte de sus estudios.

Mientras Margarita estudió canto en Milán recibió lecciones de Adela Borghi, mezzosoprano de fama mundial y profesora de canto, de cuya escuela salieron personalidades artísticas que pisaron, triunfantes, los más acreditados escenarios de Europa, Norte y Suramérica. Terminó su curso con notas sobresalientes.

Esta presentación fue, sin duda, una de las pocas oportunidades de gran valía que tuvo la artista. En términos generales, las demás oportunidades fueron más bien intrascendentes. En 1966 se enfermó y fue a Nueva York en busca de la cura. Pero allí murió, en julio de 1979, enferma aun, a la edad de 87 años.

¡Salve mujeres maravillosas, Salve! ■

## An excerpt from Solidarity, Pride, Struggle

### Kenneth Fox

HHC, Cook

Member since 1980



*...I started out in Harlem Hospital as a dietary aide, until a cook job opened. In less than a year, a job opened up for a cook in Goldwater Hospital, and that's when I joined the union.... Well, I had several friends who worked in Harlem Hospital. I knew some people there. I always wanted to work in a hospital. Working in a hospital and cooking for people, that's my thing. And so, I got on the job with benefits and worked for the City and...*





## The Excitement and Stress of Buying a Home

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

**B**uying a home is most likely the biggest purchase any of us will make in our lives. It can be very gratifying to know your money is being spent on equity in your own home rather than paid to a landlord each month. It is, after all, the American Dream.

The news is full of articles about buying a home these days. Interest rates have been historically low for quite some time and are one factor leading to the crazy buying market we are experiencing. Another factor has been low inventory. The pandemic didn't help but this low inventory was happening even pre-pandemic. Our aging society is living longer and staying in houses longer than in the past. Also, the 30-somethings are a large group and looking to purchase first homes. All this has led to a highly competitive market and often stressful experience when trying to purchase a house.

Although interest rates are predicted to go up this year and possibly slow purchases a bit, the inventory of available homes won't change much, so odds are it won't get easier to buy any time soon. The Legal Services Plan has assisted hundreds of members buying a home during the pandemic. Anecdotal evidence has shown that most houses will go on the market and receive multiple offers, many times higher than the asking price. Because the market is so competitive, many buyers, anxious to purchase and afraid to lose out, make hasty offers or fail to get home inspections. This may lead to being in a house you don't love or maybe can't afford.

So, is it a "good" time to buy? The answer depends on your unique situation. If you plan on staying in the house for at least 5 to 7 years, the answer may be yes. However, because prices are high, you may want to rent instead if the plan is to relocate in under 5 years. Although most experts will tell you that thinking of your house as an investment isn't the best strategy, you do not want to be left having to sell and either losing money or coming close to breaking even.

Another consideration is what is available for your budget. If you are priced out of certain areas, you may decide a 2-hour commute is worth it. But when the reality of the long commute settles in, you may want to sell but can't afford to do so. When buying a home, you must also factor in the purchase costs in addition to the purchase price. Typically, you can estimate closing costs in the New York area at 5% of the mortgage amount. For example, the closing costs on a \$400,000 mortgage may be approximately \$20,000. Further, owning a home means you are responsible for all the needed repairs and upkeep that occur with ownership. Your monthly mortgage payment will also include 1/12 of your real estate taxes, homeowner's insurance and possible mortgage insurance depending on the size of your loan. You will pay water and sewer charges, in addition to your monthly utility bills. And, of course, there are moving costs and possible new furniture costs to add to the initial expense.

If you are trying to decide if now is the time to buy a home, on-line calculators exist to help you decide whether to rent vs. buy. You should order your free annual credit report at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) and be sure there are no errors on your report. Then, to be ready to make an offer, you will need to obtain a pre-approval or pre-qualification from a mortgage lender. This will show you are a serious, ready buyer and give you a good idea of what you can afford.

While there are many stresses involved in buying a home, it is also one of the most exciting times for many people. Ideally you will weigh all the considerations before making an offer. Finally, you have a team of Local 237 Legal Services Plan lawyers available to represent you buying a coop, condo, one- or two-family primary residence in 11 counties of New York State. If you have questions or need a lawyer, please do not hesitate to call us at (212) 924-1220. ■



## Springtime is here, Have some fun!

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

**A**fter a long winter of being indoors, feeling isolated and bored, springtime has opened the doors. There's nothing like breathing fresh air, feeling the warmth of the sun on your skin and soaking in a little Vitamin D to renew your mind, body and soul. Exploring nature, going on walks, and socializing helps to make friends, memories and have fun.

The following are a few springtime activities that can help to not only "improve cognitive function but happiness as well", according to the National Institute of Health. Even if mobility is a problem, you can find adventures and venues that cater to the handicapped and are wheelchair accessible.

Here are a few activities to get you started:

**Visit a local park and go for a walk.** Many landmarks, local parks and even nature trails are appropriate for seniors (and are wheelchair accessible). Wear good walking shoes, pack snacks and water!

**Visit a farmers' market.** There's nothing like fresh fruits, vegetables and local arts and crafts to inspire elders. Pick a recipe beforehand and enjoy getting fresh ingredients to excite your tastebuds.

**Enjoy tourist attractions.** When was the last time you visited a museum, library or rode a tour bus?

**Visit a nursery.** Nurseries are an excellent place to visit because you can partake in their indoor and outdoor plant preferences, which adds to the excitement factor. Beautifying both indoors and outdoors can add some color and enjoyable ambiance to your home.

**Go on a picnic.** Pack a delicious lunch with a comfortable blanket and enjoy the outdoors, picnic style. You can bring binoculars for bird watching, books to read, or cards for some outdoor game-fun.

**Watch a cooking channel for savory spring recipes.** The Food Network offers great cooking shows and recipe ideas for delicious springtime healthy living. Watch with your loved ones and make it a family project.

**Plant an herb garden.** To go along with healthy eating, a small herb garden provides not only gardening fun, but also healthy and tasty ingredients for your favorite dishes.

**Go see a show.** Check out off-Broadway productions, outdoor performances, and concerts. There are many free cultural events you can attend.

**Pack a bag and travel.** The world is huge, start with a close-to-home destination, go on a cruise, or take a road trip and explore another state.

These were only a few suggestions. Many more can be found at various organizations. Visit [www.AARP.org](http://www.AARP.org), [www.SeniorLiving.org](http://www.SeniorLiving.org), [www.roadsscholar.org](http://www.roadsscholar.org), and [www.suddenlysenior.com](http://www.suddenlysenior.com) (just to name a few) and learn about a variety of activities that match your interests and budget. Don't forget to take pictures. Happy Spring! ■

## An excerpt from Solidarity, Pride, Struggle

### Carmen Maldonado

NYCHA, Assistant Superintendent  
Member since 1982

*...I am a single parent, so I needed to work. I was living in the Hill Houses then. I went to make my rent payment and I noticed a posting for Caretaker J. I applied, took the exam, and four years later, they hired me.... I love the job and working with my co-workers. Even when I finished my work on time, I would stay in the building. In case they needed me someplace else, I'd be there. My partner and I maintained that building so beautifully. I learned to strip the floors, wax them. The hopper area was nice and clean. You could come into the building and you could eat from the floor, because that's how clean it was. And that's how I also expected my staff members to work...*





## Summertime and the living is easy - is it?

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

I have been working for Teamsters Local 237 Retiree Division for over two years. I have spoken with many of you. You call for information about your benefits or because you need assistance to complete your paperwork to retire. I love speaking with all of you and providing the assistance you request. Some of you tell me about your work history and stories about all you had to do during your years at your job. Your stories are inspiring as you're hard working and resilient people. From your stories, I have learned that your jobs were physically and emotionally demanding and you dealt with it well. At present, you are retired and enjoying your well-deserved benefits.

Today, I would like to address the increase in prices and whether inflation is affecting your finances I would like to offer you some resources and information that may help you. As per the Consumer Price Index (which is published monthly by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics), the rate of inflation in February of 2022 was 7.9%, which is the highest since January of 1982. If the spike in prices is causing financial struggles, you are not alone. Here are some resources that can help you:

**Food Pantries:** You can visit a local food pantry and get some groceries to supplement your needs. At the food pantry you can get perishable and non-perishable foods, including: Dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, canned goods, and dry goods, frozen meats and more. Many of the food pantries also have case assistance and can evaluate your situation to see if you qualify for other assistance such as Food Stamps.

**Soup Kitchens:** At a soup kitchen, you can get a warm meal, breakfast and lunch.

**Senior Centers:** Visiting your senior center will help you socialize with other people and they serve breakfast and lunch from Mondays to Fridays. Additionally, senior centers have case assistance to help you find resources.

**Meals On Wheels:** If you have difficulty leaving your home, Meals On Wheels is a good option. They deliver warm meals daily, and frozen meals for the weekend.

If you need assistance connecting to any of the benefits above, please do not hesitate to call the Local 237 Retiree Division for resources. Our number is 212-807-0555. ■



## Spring Cleaning Tips

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

March 20th marks the beginning of spring. It's my favorite time of the year. A study conducted by a researcher at the Chase Western Reserve University Nursing School found that household chores completed by older adults kept them up and moving.

In addition to the physical exercise attained through common household tasks, older adults found that completing these tasks every day gave them a sense of purpose and accomplishment, thus contributing to both physical and mental health.

Here are a few tips and reminders as you welcome this new season:

- The use of vinegar in your laundry and for cleaning your windows is an eco-friendly cleaning powerhouse; however it's also very acidic and can cause damage if used on stones and wood. Never use vinegar to clean granite or marble countertops. Use mild soap and warm water instead.
- You don't have to use hot water in the washer. Today's laundry detergents clean more efficiently when used in cold water. Your laundry will get just as clean on the cold setting, and you will save tons of money on your utility bill.
- Don't mix bleach with other cleaning agents; do not layer or create a custom blend with bleach and ammonia, hydrogen peroxide, acids, or other cleaners, notes the Washington State Department of Health. The combo creates toxic chloramine gas, which can irritate eyes, nose and throat, and even lead to death.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This should be done every three months, so you and your family will stay protected in case of a fire, smoke, or a carbon monoxide leak.
- Precautions – of course this goes without saying but we will say it anyway – continue doing the household tasks you love, however, it's ok to modify as needed to fit your needs. You can adjust to seating positions when folding clothes or carry small loads of laundry at a time. Adjust to the task as you see fit.

For more tips on spring cleaning, please visit [www.Houselogic.com](http://www.Houselogic.com) ■



## TIPS FOR PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER

by **Anthony Morano**  
Chief Information Officer, Teamsters Local 237

Here are a couple of points to remember when you are looking for a new computer:

Will you need a computer that you can take with you? Is a desktop a better option versus a laptop? Do you have room for a desktop?

Purchasing 3rd party antivirus is critical to ensure you are safe when on the Internet. Although Microsoft provides a built-in option, to be fully secure, you really want to purchase something from ESET, Norton, or some other vendor.

Do you require the computer to have Wi-Fi? If purchasing a desktop, this is very important; otherwise, the computer will have to be placed very close to your router so you can plug into it.

When purchasing a laptop, how large a screen do you really need? Remember that a larger screen generally equates to heavier weight. If you plan on moving the laptop around, you want to be aware of how heavy it is.

Windows 10 vs Windows 11, which is better? Honestly, you cannot go wrong with either. You can probably find a better deal on a computer with Windows 10 versus 11. The only major difference is that Windows 11 has a different look and feel, but both offer the same functionality. Windows 10 will also be supported with security updates and patches until 2025, so you have at least 3 years before you need to be concerned about upgrading. ■

## An excerpt from Solidarity, Pride, Struggle

### James Spicer

NYCHA Heating Plant Technician,  
Union Activist



*It started with the kids tearing up the grounds at Breukelen Houses. The tenants didn't like that they were messing up the grounds and throwing balls under their windows... I asked the kids why they didn't play in the park across the street, the Five Diamond Park. They said noone wanted to coach them.*

*I had played semipro football with the Black Hawks in Brooklyn years before, so I said I would....A lot of children who played on our team now work for the Housing Authority and are members of Local 237...*



## on a personal note... In Memoriam



To the family of retiree **Louis Rettagliata**, we extend our deepest condolences. Mr. Rettagliata retired from NYCHA, passed away on March 4, 2022. He will be missed.



**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 out on important information.

## RETIREE news & views

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New York, NY 10011



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MARCH/APRIL 2022

## Important information on the NYC Medicare Advantage plan

As many of you already know, The NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan **was not** implemented on April 1, 2022.

Retirees do not need to opt out of the Medicare Advantage Program to remain in Senior Care or their current plan on April 1. **All retirees will remain in their current plans until further notice.**

We will keep you informed of new developments as soon as information is available. Please be sure to check the Local 237 website regularly for updates at <https://local237.org/retirees>

### Actualizaciones importantes sobre el nuevo plan NYC Medicare Advantage Plus

El plan NYC Medicare Advantage Plus **no se implementará** el 1 de abril de 2022.

Los jubilados no necesitan optar para no participar en el Programa Medicare Advantage para permanecer en Senior Care o en su plan actual el 1 de abril. **Todos los jubilados permanecerán en sus planes actuales hasta nuevo aviso.**

Le mantendremos informado de los nuevos desarrollos tan pronto como la información esté disponible. Asegúrese de consultar el sitio web Local 237 regularmente para obtener actualizaciones en <https://local237.org/retirees>

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

**SEND PHOTOS, STORIES,  
FUN RECIPES, SHARE SPECIAL OCCASIONS,  
EVENTS OR A NEW HOBBY**

**EMAIL: RETIREES2@LOCAL237.ORG**

**OR CALL: 212-807-0555**



**Did you serve in the military? The Retiree Division wants to know!**

## An excerpt from Solidarity, Pride, Struggle

### Anthony Gannatti

Bridge Operator-in-Charge  
Member since 1953  
Bridge Operator

*I first went to work for the City on Sunday, February 15, 1953. I remember it very well, because it was unusual for your first day of work to be on a Sunday. I was 21 years old... The bridge strike. That was the biggest thing that ever happened there in my 35 years... When I went into work that day for the 8 to 4 shift – I was at the Borden Avenue Bridge that connects Long Island City and Brooklyn – I found the bridge in the open position. It was 7 or 7:30 in the morning. I didn't know what was going on. I parked my car on the Queens side and walked into the bridge house. The other worker (I can't remember his name) told me, "The bridge is stuck open." I said, "What's happening?" And he said, "I think we're on strike." Then he walked off...*

