



# Local 1321 News

Queens Library Guild Local 1321 DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO • November 2004 Vol. 2, Issue 3

## Queens Library Guild Local 1321

**Queens Library Guild**  
Local 1321 125 Barclay Street  
New York, NY 10007-2179  
(212) 815-1188

**Queens Office:**  
94-11 217th Street  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
(718) 264-0787

Website: <http://www.local1321.org>

**President**  
John Socha

**Executive  
Vice President**  
John Hyslop

**Vice President  
(Librarians)**  
Jane Jacobs

**Vice President  
(Clerical)**  
Jean Douglas

**Vice President  
(Blue Collar)**  
Deborah Wynn

**Secretary**  
Conrad Stogel

**Blue Collar  
Representative**  
Danny Messina

**Clerical Representative**  
Roma Ramdhan

**Librarian Representative**  
Ann-Marie Josephs

**DC 37 Delegates**  
Gaye Fruscione  
Steve Nobel  
Linda Staer  
Barbara Halloway

**Trustees**  
Kerline Riedra  
Dorrett Hextall  
Roz Lesser

**Publications Committee Chair**  
Jane Jacobs

## Union Democracy Membership Matters!

Local 1321 has recently reviewed its membership and mailing lists and is working with DC 37 to correct any inaccuracies and omissions. Union members should take this opportunity to check their pay stubs to insure that their union status is properly recorded.

Take a moment to look at your next pay stub (see below). If your

pay stub shows "QBPL Agency Fees" instead of "QBPL Union Dues," you won't be able to participate fully in your own union. You won't be able to vote and you won't be eligible to hold union office. Make sure it's right!

If you either never signed or never sent in your Union Card, your status will default to agency shop fee payer.

But what if it isn't right? You should contact Vice President Jean Douglas at (718) 526-5835. She will provide you with a Union Card and a postage paid envelope. Once you receive the card, fill it in and send it directly to:

District Council 37  
125 Barclay Street  
NY, NY 10007-2179

## How to Check Your Pay Stub

Queens Borough Public Library  
89-11 Merrick Boulevard  
Jamaica, New York 11432  
Address inquiries to (718) 990-0785

Admin Date: 11/04/04  
Employee: 000000  
Pay Period: 10/26/04 - 11/01/04

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	CURRENT	Y-T-D	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT	Y-T-D
SALARY	4,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	AGENCY FEES	400.00	4,000.00
TOTAL COMMISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00	NY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	200.00	2,000.00
TOTAL	4,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	NY STATE SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	200.00	2,000.00
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW YORK STATE TAX	200.00	2,000.00
TOTAL TAKE HOME PAY	4,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	200.00	2,000.00
<b>AGENCY SHOP FEES</b>				<p><b>This employee won't be able to hold Union office or vote in Union elections.</b></p>		

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<b>UNION DUES</b>				<p><b>This check stub shows Union Dues are being paid and the employee is eligible to participate in all Union Activities.</b></p>		

## Inside This Issue

- New Executive Board Members
- Outstanding Grievances
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
- DC 37 Legal Services and PSU

## Introducing New Executive Board Members

Hello fellow union members. I am one of the new officers of Local 1321, elected in June 2004. I would like to tell you something about myself. I'm 53 years old and have been working in QBPL as a librarian since September 2000. I was born and raised in Jackson Heights, Queens. I was brought up in a union family, as my father—since the end of World War II—was a NYC public school teacher and an active member of the then Teachers' Union (TU). It later incorporated with the greater UFT.

I was raised to respect all workers and their efforts, regardless of rank or title, and that the union can be their best friend. After all, if an employee gets in a jam, who's there to call—GHOSTBUSTERS? No. Call your, I repeat YOUR union. Local 1321—while not perfect, we have resources to effectively help you. Don't think so? Please come to our next meeting, listen and participate, and in return we'll spring for a decent supper.

In addition to my late father's influence, what got me interested in Local 1321's activities was the experience of getting into a hassle within my first year in the QBPL system and having no advocate to turn to—because I was ineligible yet for union membership. I called President John Socha anyway. His response was that

the union was interested in all library problems, including those of non-members, too. He did the decent thing and spent the time to review my situation and offer good advice. As a Local 1321 Board Member I shall never forget that, and I am returning service to our Local.



**CONRAD STOGEL,**  
Secretary/Treasurer

My vision for our QBPL workers involves including more rapid title promotions, (which equals more money), and having the QBPL bargaining agent, NYC, recognize in financial and benefits terms that the public libraries are in fact ("de facto") a vital part of the Department of Education (DOE). Parity and equality with the public school workers is the next objective I believe Local 1321 must pursue. Can one imagine libraries closed just before midterms or Regents exams? Where will the DOE's students be without our vast collection of classic books, computers and other items essential to a quality education that the DOE's budget cannot afford?

On a personal basis, I love jazz and its history, movies, good food and baseball. PLEASE feel free to e-mail me any time at the following addresses: [conradstogel@hotmail.com](mailto:conradstogel@hotmail.com) or [yatesstogel@hotmail.com](mailto:yatesstogel@hotmail.com)

Thank you, and Keep the Faith  
Brothers and Sisters.



**KERLINE PIEDRA**  
Trustee

My name is Kerline Piedra. I came to the U.S. in 1985 after my father emigrated here from Haiti. I am the second child of seven; I have three brothers and three sisters. After graduating from Springfield Gardens H.S., I went to Nassau Community College where I earned an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I then went on to Old Westbury where I earned a Bachelors Degree in Labor Relations. I have three beautiful children, Cynthia, A.J. and Jonathan, and I am married to a wonderful guy named Alfredo who is a Librarian here at the Central Library. I have been working at the Queens Library for 11 years. I enjoy my work, although it can be overwhelming at times. I like the flexibility it gives me and its proximity to my home.

My goal for the next five years after my twin boys start kindergarten is to work in a union setting. Here I can utilize my labor background to be an advocate for the working poor, especially for the newly arrived immigrants. These immigrants are disenfranchised and are sometimes looked down on because of their ethnicity and language.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in the trustee position. I am looking forward to working with everyone and sharing ideas on how we can improve working conditions for all employees at the library.

Visit the Local 1321 website:  
<http://www.local1321.org>



# Holiday Party!

Members are invited to a  
**Local 1321 Holiday Party**



On Tuesday  
Dec. 14, 2004 from  
7 pm to 11 pm  
at Dante's Restaurant  
168-12 Union Turnpike

For information, call the  
Local at (718) 264-0787.



## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Local 1321  
donated \$1,000  
to the  
American Cancer Society.

**In Memory of  
Kellie Gordon-Neale  
and  
Monserrate Quirindongo**

*We thank all those who  
participated in the  
"Making Strides Against  
Breast Cancer" walk,  
both walkers and donors.  
Special thanks to  
organizer Mattie Bell.*

## DC 37 Legal Services



Lawyers will advise and represent you on covered personal legal problems, if you are eligible for DC 37's legal services plan, MELS. Social workers are available for counseling and personal concerns related to the legal problem.

Legal assistance is available in the following matters: wills; consumer problems; eviction; divorce; debt, including bankruptcy; citizenship; problems arising from claims for government benefits; review of contracts or legal documents related to covered matters; credit ratings; public utilities.

If you are a full-time employee or a retiree, you can also get legal assistance in buying or selling your one-family residence and for family court matters. Job-related matters are not covered.

Call 212-815-1111 in New York and 305-652-6396 in Florida to check on your eligibility and coverage and to make an appointment with a lawyer. Have your Social Security number handy.

# DC 37 Personal Service Unit



## 1. HOW DO I CONTACT PSU?

**Call the Personal Service Unit: (212) 815-1250**

Phone-in hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Walk-in hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The screening team is staffed by four (4) social workers who are there to respond to requests for assistance. The member may have to call a number of times before getting a social worker due to the large volume of calls coming into the unit.

## 2. WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I CONTACT PSU?

The member should be prepared to give a brief description of the issues that he/she is experiencing. The social worker will ask a number of questions in order to obtain a better understanding that will enable us to assist you. The Personal Service Unit may offer either short-term counseling or referrals to services in your community.

All the information gathered is confidential and cannot be shared with anyone outside of PSU without your written permission to do so.

## 3. WHY WOULD SOMEONE USE PSU?

**Job Jeopardy** - Problems at work can result in disciplinary action, resulting in a verbal or written warning, charges, or scheduled hearing. It is to your advantage to contact PSU at the earliest sign of trouble.

**Personal and Family Problems** - Other reasons members come to PSU include, but are not limited to, personal and family difficulties, alcohol and substance abuse, depression and anxiety, and major life changes.

**Group counseling** - Periodically, the PSU staff provides group counseling for members with similar need such as:

- Wellness Support Group for members who have emotional and/or health related problems
- Layoff Support Group

**Outreach Program** - This program assists:

- Members on short-term disability in need of assistance
- Pre-Retirees to prepare for retirement
- Homebound members and retirees

## 4. HOW WOULD I BENEFIT BY CONTACTING PSU?

Social Work services at PSU will help you to:

- Identify your problems
- Identify the strengths and resources that you already have
- Identify better ways of coping
- Locate community resources
- Obtain counseling or specialized treatment if necessary