



# INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

April 2015

Volume 40 Issue 5

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As I prepare to write my last "President's Message" for the *AARSPA Informer*, I am happy to note that spring finally seems to be in the air. I have enjoyed serving as the President of AARSPA for the past two years. Thank you for the confidence and support that you have shown to me during this time. During my tenure, I had the good fortune of being supported by a wonderful and dedicated group of officers and committee chairpersons who have done a great job in moving our organization in a forward direction. During the past two years, we have made some positive accomplishments including: strengthening our Bylaws; identifying relevant and interesting speakers and quality entertainment for our luncheons; rebuilding enthusiasm for our "Florida Get-Togethers"; building a strong community service program known as "AARSPA from the Heart"; and making our newsletter available through e-mail to those members who choose to receive it that way. I am also happy to report that our membership continues to grow in a positive direction as we approach 2,000 members.

On March 4, thanks to the efforts of our Legislative chairperson, Virginia Crespo, we sponsored our annual Legislative Luncheon. Nine members of the House of Delegates representing Anne Arundel County stopped by for lunch and conversation with the ten AARSPA members who were present. There were discussions about pension and budget concerns as well as proposed legislation related to charter schools. Since five of our delegates are brand new, it gave us the opportunity to meet them and to share our views on issues important to us.

Speaking of the pension and the state budget, it appears that the state legislature will once again raid our "pension piggy bank". Governor Hogan's proposed budget included funds to cover the full actuarial contribution as well as the extra \$150 million "catch-up" money that was promised in last year's budget. Both houses of the state legislature have voted unanimously to cover the full actuarial contribution but have cut the "catch-up"



money back to \$75 million. This will probably slow down the process of having the state pension system funded at 80% by 2023 – we are currently funded at less than 70%. This legislative action will not impact our pensions currently; however, it could have a major impact in the future.

On March 11 and 12 we held our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual "Florida Get-Together" in Naples and Marco Island, Florida. A special "Thank You" goes out to our three hostesses: Joan Stipetic, Joanne Hogan and Jeanne Jones. Joanne hosted a reception at her lovely home in Naples on March 11 which was attended by 34 people. The luncheon was held on March 12 at the beautiful

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Island Country Club on Marco Island. Thirty AARSPA members, along with twelve spouses and guests, enjoyed a delicious lunch and a presentation of a guest speaker who shared the history of Marco Island and Collier County, Florida. The weather was beautiful and especially appreciated by the twenty of us who traveled from Maryland for this event. As we look ahead to 2016, we will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual "Florida Get-Together – it will be our silver anniversary! It has been suggested that we do this in the Sarasota area where the first event was planned by Margaret Sherkey some twenty-five years ago. We hope that one of our Florida members will contact us regarding making plans for this special event.

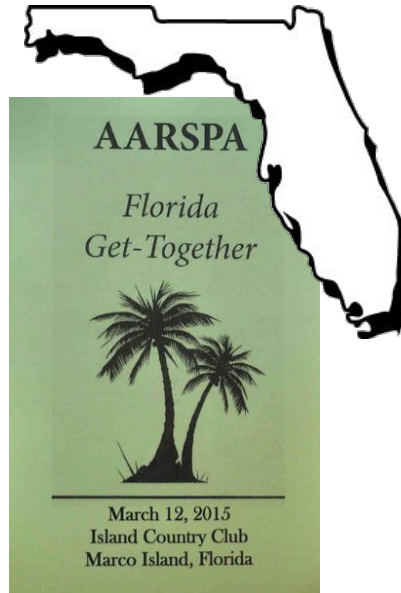
Our next General Business Meeting/Luncheon will be held at Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. It is a tradition that we honor those members who have passed during the last year at our May meeting. "AARSPA from the Heart" will be collecting **new books** that are appropriate for ages 5 to 16 which will be donated to the Stanton Center in Annapolis in honor of our deceased members and friends. We will also honor our scholarship winners and install our new officers for 2015-2016. "Voices in Melody", our AARSPA Chorus, will participate in the memorial service and provide entertainment following lunch. The registration form for this luncheon is found in this newsletter - hope to see you there!

We still need someone to serve as Treasurer. Alicia Hardisky is stepping down to become the Treasurer for MRSPA. We are also still looking for someone to chair our Pre-Retirement Committee. All of our committees would welcome new volunteers and some new ideas – please consider becoming more actively involved in AARSPA. As AARSPA celebrates 75 years next year, I hope that each of us will make a commitment to do what we can to make our organization better and stronger for ourselves, as well as our fellow retirees.

## 24TH FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER

The following AARSPA members, family members, and guests attended the 24th Florida Get-Together:

Deborah Ahalt  
 Donna Bartz  
 Phyllis Cherry  
 Jean Curry  
 Julie Fortier  
 Charles Gable  
 Kathy Geis  
 Pete Geis  
 Barbara Gregg  
 Donald Gregg  
 John Hammond  
 Joanne Hogan  
 Henry Horn  
 Janis Horn  
 Mary Ann Iverton  
 Jeanne Jones  
 Michael Kahat  
 Bob Kanach  
 Marion Keenan  
 Melissa Mowrey  
 Dianne Myers



Richard O'Hara  
 Rose O'Hara  
 Teri Pappas  
 Sandy Parrott  
 Shirley Phillips  
 Eleanor Pitzer  
 Lois Lee Porter  
 June Ruffo  
 Ron Ruffo  
 Mary Ann Sayre  
 Steve Sayre  
 Joan Stipetic  
 Michael Stipetic  
 Rosalind Suit  
 Brenda Terry  
 Rick Terry  
 Phyllis Valek  
 Lone Williams  
 Jim Williams  
 Bryan Williman  
 Millie Zipay

### VOICES IN MELODY

The AARSPA Chorus, "Voices in Melody", will be performing a series of concerts throughout the county this spring and early summer. Mark these dates on your calendar and come out and support our AARSPA community ambassadors.

Monday, May 11	O'Malley Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Thursday May 14	Renditions (AARSPA Luncheon)	TBD
Tuesday, May 19	Atria Manresa	1:00 p.m.
Thursday May 28	Arnold Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 3	Future Care Chesapeake	2:00 p.m.
Friday, June 5	South County Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Monday, June 8	Pasadena Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 11	Pascal Senior Center	12:30 p.m.







# 2015 FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER



## 2015 Florida Get-Together Attendees



Jean Curry & Mary Ann Iverson



Barbara and Don Gregg & Melissa Mowrey



Donna Bartz & Julie Fortier



Bob Kanach & Marion Keenan



Steve & Mary Ann Sayre



Deborah Ahalt & Phyllis Cherry



Shirley Phillips



Lois Lee Porter



Hostesses Joanne Hogan, Joan Stipetic & Jeanne Jones



Rosalind Suit, Charlie Gable & Dianne Myers



Kathy Geis



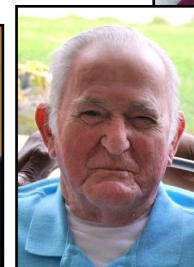
Henry & Janis Horn



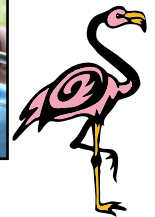
Brenda and Rick Terry & Sandy Parrott



Millie Zipay & Bryan Williman



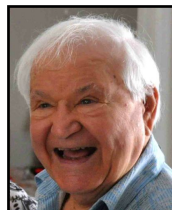
Pete Geis



Ron & June Ruffo



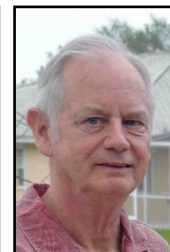
Eleanor Pitzer



Michael Stipetic



Rose O'Hara



Richard O'Hara



Jim & Lone Williams



Phyllis Valek & Michael Kahat

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

New Governor, new legislators. It has been an interesting General Assembly Session. AARSPA hosted a luncheon for the Anne Arundel legislators on March 4, 2015. We had a good turnout even though we were competing with significant budget presentations. The delegates in attendance were Herb McMillan, Nic Kipke, Ned Carey, Meagan Simonaire, Pam Beidle, Mark Chang, Ted Sophocleus, Tony McConkey, Sid Saab, and several of their aides. All expressed their support for following through on promises to rebuild the Pension Fund. We also discussed proper funding for education, charter school standards, and tax credits to non-public schools. The legislators were interested in our input. The new legislators were interested in understanding the issues with the Pension from our point of view.

Thank you to the AARSPA members who came: Charlie Gable, Bob Kanach, Rich O'Hara, Susie Jablinske, Margaret Wolfe, Sue Erichiello, Ron Ruffo, Alicia Hardisky, Lucy Turner, and Virginia Crespo.

With the end of the session close at hand, education funding has been restored, tax credits for non-public schools was not approved, the charter schools issues are still being debated. As always, the pension funding became a source of contention. The Governor's budget included the supplemental payment to help pay the unfunded liability caused by ten years of serious underfunding using the "Corridor" formula. This amount was reduced again to fund education needs. At this point, the legislature has recognized that the combination of benefit reductions (for active teachers), increased employee contributions (for active teachers), and higher than anticipated investment returns means that the state can make the full actuarial funding contribution each year and eliminate the "Corridor" formula and the supplemental funding now. This will change the time that it is expected to reach the goal of 80% funded from FY2021 to FY2023. This "assumes" there will be no repeat of the Great Recession. To emphasize, this does not impact the pensions received by current retirees. It is important to maintain the health of the system that pays our retirement and secure the future retirement for active teachers.



## REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

### MEMBER DEATHS

Thomas Bartenstein  
 Ted Brown  
 Zola Crull  
 Betty Lou Mullen  
 Donald Murrman  
 Isaac Schkloven  
 Kacia Robertson Smouse  
 Alice Day Sulin  
 Clara Thomas  
 Elaine Zimmerman

### FAMILY DEATHS

Sharon Fulton - mother  
 Joline Krolicki - mother  
 Leslie Mobray - brother  
 Carol Petrosky - husband  
 Sharon Stoddard - husband  
 Mary Sullivan - mother  
 Linda Symes - husband

### EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Goodhand	4/02
Ida Messier	4/11
Irene Wieneke	4/25
Dorothy Jubb	4/27
Evelyn Reed	5/01
Gladys Sinicrope	5/03
Anna Mae Bunker	5/10
Olivia Thompson	5/10
Thelma Sparks	6/26

### GET WELL

### THINKING OF YOU

Joel Drapalski  
 Barry Fader  
 Millie Herald  
 George Rehorn  
 Paul Rudolph  
 Shirley Rudolph  
 Charlotte Stewart  
 Joan Stipetic  
 Ed Stofko

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5/11	Linda & Lee Watkins
5/11	Lorraine & David Foster (41)
5/19	Jean & Calvin Trott
5/22	Carol & Jim Koch
6/17	Martha & Donald Ferkel
6/21	Shirley & Vernon Thomas
6/22	Sue & Dennis Keegan (31)
6/22	Jeanne & Dick Hawes
6/23	Burma & Lawrence Hill (53)
6/29	Ellen & Robert Bentley
6/29	Annette & Don Smith (50)



If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people:

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Zipay at [mz2teach@aol.com](mailto:mz2teach@aol.com)/ 410 401-0712

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Nina Griffith at [bear1134@aol.com](mailto:bear1134@aol.com)/ 443 304-2266

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at [wwdsrogers@verizon.net](mailto:wwdsrogers@verizon.net)/

410 647-7585



**AARSPA INFORMER GOING GREEN**

As you know from the February *AARSPA Informer*, we have begun to send out the newsletter electronically. When we started to discuss this project, it was decided that we would continue to mail the *AARSPA Informer* through the year to make certain that all members still received the document. We would like to update you on the progress made thus far.

The first electronic mailing of the *AARSPA Informer* included 1077 members. This mailing utilized the email addresses we had in our records as well as the email addresses that were sent to us either through the association's web site or on the insert found in the February newsletter. Of these email address, 800+ were actually opened and about half of those actually clicked on the link to access the newsletter. We continued to receive additional email addresses so we subsequently sent out a second mailing to 167 new email addresses only. We also received notices from 16 members who preferred not to receive the document electronically and to have it sent to them by US mail. We did have about 220 members who deleted the email, probably thinking it was a scam or unwanted email. We also had 127 email addresses from our files that were undeliverable because the email address is no longer available, probably as a result of members changing services and thus addresses.

We are most encouraged by this first effort. Constant Contact, our service provider, informed us that we had one of the best first-time mailing of any non-profit organization. We also determined that with the current number of people who have been sent the newsletter electronically, the association will save close to \$3,500 in printing and mailing costs over the next year! That will help us keep our dues cost stable for the near future.

As stated above, we have again sent this issue of the newsletter via US mail to all members. Ten days after we deliver this newsletter to the post office, we will send it out electronically to all the email addresses we now have.

**Be looking for an email with AARSPA in the Sender Column of your mailbox. DO NOT DELETE IT! Instead, open it; you will see a page with our apple logo. Click on the underlined sentence: [Click here to read the AARSPA Informer.](#)**

By doing this, you will allow us to verify that we have your correct email address and that you successfully opened the document. We hope to discontinue sending the *Informer* via US mail to our members on the email list this summer if progress continues as it has. Again, we will continue to use the US Postal Service for those members who do not wish to participate in the electronic mailing. Be assured that your personal information remains within our association.

If you do not receive an email from AARSPA and would like to receive it, please let us know by sending an email to: [newsletter@aarspa.org](mailto:newsletter@aarspa.org). Include in the email: 1) your name, 2) your email address, 3) phone number, and 4) your cell number in case we need to contact you. Once we receive your email, we will update our files and send you a return email indicating that we have added you to our email list.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we attempt to improve our communications with you.



## DOROTHY-MEGAN CRAB FEAST CRUISE - Hurlock, MD



Wednesday, September 16, 2015



We had such a good time two years ago that we want to do it again! The Trips Committee has again scheduled a trip aboard the "Dorothy-Megan," a working replica of an authentic paddlewheel riverboat for a crab feast cruise. Enjoy a delicious crab feast consisting of steamed crabs, crab soup, fried chicken, clam strips, corn on the cob, coleslaw, dessert, iced tea, soda and draft beer. Relax and take in the splendor of the Choptank River while you eat. On the return trip home, we will make a stop at an Eastern Shore produce stand.

Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis and we have fifty seats available for this trip. The \$85.00 per person cost includes all of the above, plus trip taxes and tips, including the driver. The bus will pick up at the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Boulevard and will leave the left rear parking lot promptly at 9:45 a.m., returning at 5:15 p.m. If you are interested in this trip, please complete the form below and mail it along with the **payment made out to AARSPA** to :

Bob Kanach  
512 Augusta Drive  
Arnold, MD 21012

**Please send form and payment no later than August, 28, 2015.**



### Megan Crab Feast Cruise

Hurlock, Maryland

**Deadline for tickets is August 28, 2015.**

Please reserve me \_\_\_ seats for this event. The cost per person is \$85.00. Make your checks payable to AARSPA and mail this form and the check to **Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the people in your group if ordering for more than yourself:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ tickets ordered X \$85.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount due. **Please make the check payable to AARSPA.**

# FREE SCHOOL NEWS

The Annearrundell County Free School Museum is beginning its spring/summer Open House season, opening to the public on the second Saturday and the second Sunday of April, May, June, July, and August from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Docents from AARSPA will be at the Museum to greet the public and answer questions. You are welcome to visit at these times. For a special tour, please contact Karlie Everett at 410-268-8656.

It is important to welcome new docents into our cadre of experienced docents. We find new docents have fresh ideas and ask probing questions that lead us to improve on our existing content and practices. Having more docents than we have open house dates is also a good thing. Not only do we need substitutes for last minute emergencies, but it is nice to have two docents opening the Free School Museum on the same day. This gives the docents the opportunity to spend some time together or to split the open house time between them, whichever they prefer.

On Monday, April 27, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m., a group of volunteers will be at the Free School unpacking and repacking the last batch of artifacts from the 1978 archeological dig. Lunch will be served. If you are interested in serving as a docent or in working with the artifacts, please contact Karlie Everett at 410-268-8656.

The following AARSPA members participated in the spring cleaning of the Annearrundell County Free School Museum on Saturday, March 28: Tony Anzalone, Monica Delucia, Marie Diamond, Jerry and Karlie Everett, John Hammond, Bob Kanach, Carol and Gene Kirby, Rick O'Hara, and Ron Ruffo.



Kneeling l to r: Ron Ruffo & Bob Kanach  
Standing l to r: John Hammond, Rick O'Hara, Jerry Everett, Monica Delucia, Karlie Everett, Marie Diamond, Carol Kirby, Gene Kirby & Tony Anzalone



Gene Kirby



Monica Delucia,  
Marie Diamond &  
Carol Kirby



Tony Anzalone & Ron Ruffo

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarship donations from January - April 2015 include:

Generous donation of \$300                      Janice C. Lake  
50/50 Raffle from Florida event              Rosalind Suit

**In Honor Of:**  
Mary Lord

**In Memory Of:**  
Monica Miller Chaney  
John A. DeSimone  
Hilda Salamy Gohrband  
Frank & Irene Hebron, tremendous educators and friends  
Raymond Krolicki  
Mary (Sue) Norris, great educator who gave many years of service  
Elizabeth (Betty) O'Hara, great educator who gave many years of service  
Ellen Phebus, secretary at Belle Grove E.S. for 30+ years  
Bill Rogers

You are kind! You are thoughtful! You are appreciated! Thank you for being such thoughtful and generous donors, supporting students wishing to pursue careers as educators.



Do you want to give a friend or family member a gift for a birthday, an anniversary or some other special occasion? Consider sending a donation to the AARSPA Scholarship Fund in the person's name. Please see the donation form elsewhere in this newsletter for directions on how to accomplish this.

# FEBRUARY 12 MEETING AT BLUE DOLPHIN



Myrtle Link, Pat Caldwell & Carlean Clark



FIRST TIMERS : David Bartosevich, Marsha Stewart, Jane Ciupek, Penny Quinn, Marilyn Johnson & President Charles Gable



Jacquelin Evans (Emeritus)



Ethel Bohle & Jean Gates



Barbara Remias & Carol Kirby



## LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Registration.....9:45  
 Business.....10:30  
 Lunch.....12:00  
 Program.....12:45

No refunds after reservation deadline  
**APRIL 27, 2005**

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

**DATE:** Thursday, May 14, 2015  
**PLACE:** Renditions Golf Course  
 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035

**ENTRÉE CHOICES:** Cornbread stuffed chicken breast, crab cake, or pasta primavera  
 Each entrée is served with a mixed green luncheon salad, mashed potatoes, a seasonal vegetable, and chocolate mousse for dessert. Coffee, sweet tea and iced tea will be served with the meal.



**COST:** \$29 per person (**Please make checks payable to AARSPA**)

Mail reservation and payment to : Bob Kanach  
 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold MD 21012

**KEEP THE UPPER PORTION FOR YOUR REFERENCE**



**LUNCH RESERVATION - Deadline April 27, 2015**

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Below, please indicate the entree choice for each person in your party.**

Name(s)-including contact person	Chicken	Crab cake	Pasta
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Number of reservations X \$29.00** **Total due:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you are an Emeritus Member (90 or greater)





## HEALTH ROOM DONATIONS

The clothing items that were so generously donated by our AARSPA members at the February luncheon were distributed to Van Bokkelen and Hillsmere Elementary Schools. Staff members at the schools were appreciative and made the Community Service Committee members feel as though the project was definitely worth our effort.

**Thank you to all who participated!**

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Now that spring is here and we are all able to get out and about more easily, you may want to consider donating some of your time to community service efforts. You may want to volunteer at a hospital, library or school, or do more for our servicemen and service women. If you need help getting started, please contact Phyllis Cherry (410)672-5433 or Karlie Everett (410) 268-8656. They will be able to help you get started and can even put you in touch with an AARSPA member who is already volunteering at a site.

## BOOK DONATIONS AT MAY LUNCHEON

At the May 14, 2015, luncheon at Renditions, the Community Service Committee will collect books to take to the Annapolis Youth Services Bureau at the Stanton Center on Washington Street in Annapolis. Books will be collected for students ranging from 5 -19 years old. A few sample titles of publisher favorites from 2014 are listed below. You may donate books not appearing on the list, but remember, not all books are appropriate for children. When in doubt, leave it out. Community Service Committee members will also accept cash donations for this project and purchase books for AARSPA members wanting to participate but not able to shop or not sure what to buy.

*The Secret Garden* - Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Guess How Much I Love You* - Sam McBratney  
*The Storm Whale* - Benji Davies  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Roald Dahl  
*The Winner's Curse* - Marie Rutkoski  
*Blue Lily, Lily Blue* - Maggie Steifvater  
*Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present* - Charlotte Zolotow  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* - Jacqueline Woodson



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m.

June 11, 2015 - Free School

July 9, 2015 - Center #3

### General Membership Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

May 14, 2015 - Renditions Golf Course  
Davidsonville

### Other Dates

May 12, 2015 - MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, Turf Valley

May 19, 2015 - Hotel Du Pont Luncheon and Longwood Gardens

August 1, 2015 - AARSPA Informer deadline

September 16, 2015 - Dorothy-Megan Crab Feast Cruise

# Welcome!

## New Members 2/15 - 4/1

Joneice Anderson  
 Lita Brown  
 Sandra Brusberg  
 Barbara Colacicco  
 Victoria Engleman  
 Catherine Herbert  
 Rhonda Kazer  
 Deborah MacPherson  
 Edna Marsteller  
 Bill Sharkey  
 Cynthia Smith  
 Christelle Wiseman

## A Reminder

If you haven't mailed your FY2015-2016 Local Only dues, please do so soon. Just about everyone has responded but sixty two members are still outstanding. Postage for mailing second notices digs into our operating/scholarship funds. Please reply at your earliest convenience.



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
 2644 Riva Road  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

 **Scholarship Fund Donation**  
*Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution of quality teachers entering the education profession.*

*I wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund.*

**Donation Amount is:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**for:**  
 \_\_\_\_ birthday \_\_\_\_ anniversary  
 \_\_\_\_ other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
 Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
 or / for  
 Tax Deductible Donations, make checks payable to:  
 21st Century Education Foundation, Inc.

**Mail all checks to:**  
 Matilda Barckley  
 8238 Great Bend Road  
 Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

**Name and address of the honoree.**  
*We will inform the honoree(s) and/or the family of the deceased that a gift has been made to the scholarship fund.*  
**Send notice of my donation to:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Donor's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*For questions, please contact:*  
 Matilda Barckley • barckleya@comcast.net • 410-768-3408

The 21st Century Foundation, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, charitable organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of the foundation's current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the 21st Century Education Foundation at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (telephone: 410-222-5370). Document and information submitted to the state of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage. *DPS/CB 1395/28a (Rev. 7/13)*