



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

APRIL 2017

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I find it hard to believe that I have nearly completed my term as AARSPA President. I have made many new friends and have seen members work on numerous successful projects. We can be very proud of our association!

Some of the projects with which members are involved include:

-assisting AACPS Human Resources to fill roughly eight thousand health care packets

-volunteering at the Free School Museum to identify artifacts which are now on display in specialized cases, cleaning up the Free School and its grounds, and volunteering as docents at the Free School

-under the leadership of the "AARSPA from the Heart" committee, participating in the Annapolis Walk to End Alzheimer's the last two years, raising over \$8,000 for Alzheimer's research, as well as collecting school supplies, food, clothing, books, toiletries, and items for the Anne Arundel County Animal Shelter at General Membership Meetings

-assisting the Board of Education in identifying AACPS teachers, support staff, and other employees who contribute beyond the call of duty in various school system facilities

-donating \$24,000 in scholarships over the last two years to high school graduates who wish to pursue a career in education.

In addition to these projects, the membership in AARSPA's "Voices in Melody" chorus has continued to grow, and the chorus has performed at Senior Centers and other venues in the County. The Legislative Committee has kept members informed of State legislation affecting them and has provided a luncheon each of the last two years for the Anne Arundel County delegation. The Trips Committee has planned enjoyable day trips for members and Florida Get-Togethers have been held in Sarasota and Kissimmee.

The *AARSPA Informer*, available in both printed and digital format five times a year, provides news of the association's activities as well as member pictures captured by a full time staff photographer. The Public Relations Chair sends articles and pictures to local newspapers, and AARSPA is developing a Facebook page to communicate with members.

These successes were achieved by our members working together. Years ago, I received a baton from my music teacher which I keep



on my desk at home. Each time I write an article for the *AARSPA Informer* or answer a phone call from a member, I realize that being the president of AARSPA means that I am the leader of the band, and that all of you are the real players who accomplish our achievements.

Two years ago, Bob Kanach called me to discuss the possibility of my becoming the AARSPA president. I told him that I would like to give back to all of the retirees of the school system. I really appreciate all of you who have enabled me to achieve my goal of giving back to the success of OUR organization—AARSPA.

Keep up the hardwork that so many of you do each and every day!



February 9, 2017

Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin



Entertainment: The Crabtown Combo



Emeritus Members: Ethel Bohle, Frances Middleton, Mary Etta Dorr, Jean Trott, Herb Sappington, and Jeanne Hartge



First Timers: Beth Tipton, President Barry Fader, and Gloria Day



***To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone,
a backbone, and a funny bone.***

-Reba McEntire

SCHOOL DAYS

When I was in my sixth year of teaching, I moved down to second grade to get experience at the primary level. I also wanted to get experience at teaching in an "open space" school, and Elaine Hollidayoke was kind enough to hire me at Georgetown East Elementary. There were many fun traditions established at that school, but the one that I remember distinctly was that the day before winter break, all the students would gather in the media center, and each grade would sing a seasonal song. We would practice the song whenever we had a free moment, such as walking to cultural arts class or while waiting for the buses at dismissal.

Another tradition was that the teachers who were new to the school had to dress up as a holiday character. I was assigned to dress up as Frosty, and while the students would sing, we would dance around and encourage the children to participate. Mrs. Hollidayoke would send the secretary or an aide to the classrooms of the new teachers to inform us that there was an emergency call for us in the office, and that we needed to go immediately, while the person covered the class for the program. We then would dress up in the outfits and parade among the students and teachers to the excitement of the children. After the program was over, we returned to the classrooms and resumed our daily class activities.



Upon returning to the classroom after the assembly, all of my children surrounded me and told me I made a funny Frosty. I tried desperately to convince them that it was not me in the masked outfit, and that I was on the phone handling an emergency call. Finally, one of the students spoke up and asked me for my hand. She pointed to my college ring on my finger and informed me that, "You can't fool us. We saw your big ring on Frosty's hand!"





Monticello & Michie Tavern Buffet Lunch
Charlottesville, Virginia
May 9, 2017 (Tuesday)

Into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, we will travel for a day of sightseeing. We will begin with a delicious buffet lunch served at the historic Michie Tavern by servers dressed in period attire in a rustic tavern setting, followed by a guided tour of the tavern after lunch. Next, we will depart for Monticello, the estate of Thomas Jefferson. Highlights include a tour of the extraordinary house Thomas Jefferson built and furnished for himself and his family. The guided house tour will cover the rooms on Monticello's first floor, followed by access to the grounds and guided outdoor tours of the Plantation Community and the Gardens and Grounds.

Note: A rest stop will be made en route to Charlottesville, Virginia, and a fast food stop will be made on the return trip home. Any purchases made there are not included in the trip price.

LAST CHANCE

Itinerary:

- 7:00 a.m. Depart Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road. Be early!!
Note: Fast Food Rest Stop, en route
11:15 a.m. Arrive Charlottesville, VA at Michie Tavern
11:30 a.m. Buffet Lunch
1:00 p.m. Guided tour of Michie Tavern
Note: Shopping
1:45 p.m. Depart Michie Tavern
2:00 p.m. Arrive at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello
2:40 p.m. Guided Tour of Monticello
3:10 p.m. Guided Tour of Plantation Community, Guided Tour of Gardens and Grounds
5:30 p.m. Depart Charlottesville, VA
Note: Fast Food Stop, en route
9:30 p.m. Arrive in Severna Park, MD



Cost Per Person \$119.00

Included: Transportation, buffet lunch, guided tour of Michie Tavern, guided tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, all taxes and tips including the driver and Gunther Tours Escort

Monticello/ Michie Tavern Sightseeing Trip
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Please reserve ___ seat(s) for me at a cost of \$119.00 per person. Make checks payable to AARSPA and mail both the payment and this reservation form to:

With the deadline approaching, please call 410-693-7396, no later than April 17, 2017, to reserve your seat(s). Then, send the completed reservation form below and payment to: Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012 ASAP.

Primary Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please list members of your party so you can be seated together on the bus.

Blank lines for listing party members



At the May 18, 2017, 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 of age. Remember, **not all books are appropriate for children.** When in doubt, leave it out. Cash donations will also be accepted for this project. Books will be purchased for AARSPA members wanting to participate but not able to shop or not sure what to buy.

Once again, we will also be accepting donations of travel size toiletries as well as donations for The Friends of Anne Arundel County Animal Control.

AARSPA continues to receive letters of appreciation from the various organizations where we have donated items. Most recently, we received a letter from the YWCA which is responsible for creating the safe place for women and children at Arden House. The letter acknowledges our contributions of toiletries as a demonstration of our commitment to seeing an end to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Through the efforts of AARSPA member Bonnie Schmeltz, we have received a generous donation of books from the State of Maryland International Reading Association (SoMIRAC). These books, along with the ones our members bring to the May luncheon, will be delivered to the Annapolis Youth Services Bureau at the Stanton Center. The Stanton Center has advised us that while other donations seem to be decreasing, our donation of books continues to grow.

Two Anne Arundel County elementary schools, Hilltop and Van Bokkelen, were happy recipients of the items of clothing donated at the February AARSPA luncheon.

Pictured are Barry Fader, president of AARSPA; Debbie Ahalt, AARSPA member; Louise DeJesu, principal of Hilltop Elementary; and Phyllis Cherry, co-chairperson of the "AARSPA from the Heart" initiative.



REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER DEATHS

Maureen Belka
Lois Fromeyer
Katherine Harkness
Daisy Harris
Mildred Herold
Cleo Jones
Michael Khalili
Rosemary (Rose) Martino
Hope Meyers
Frances Middleton
Alice Roscher
Majorie Welch

ANNIVERSARIES

May 7 Carolyn and Tony Anzalone (51)
11 Linda and Lee Watkins
11 Lorraine and Dave Foster (43)
22 Dale and Ron Smith (46)
June 17 Martha and Donald Ferkel
18 Mary Kay and Ken Crosby (61)
21 Shirley and Vernon Thomas
22 Jeanne and Dick Hawes
23 Burma and Lawrence Hill (55)
25 Dotty and John Schleupner (51)
26 Carolyn and Jim Levay (63)
29 Annette and Don Smith (51)
29 Ellen and Robert Bentley

EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

April 10 Anna Pasculle
11 Ida Messier
25 Irene Wieneke
27 Dorothy Jubb
May 1 Evelyn Reed
10 Olivia Thompson
11 Josephine Reeves
15 Marjorie Rasheff
June 26 Thelma Sparks

GET WELL

Dick Berzinski
Al Jank (husband of Janis)
Lou Kamm
Ken Nichols
Bob Schmidt (husband of Ann)



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

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at (mgbw16@gmail.com) or 410 401-0172

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Nina Griffith at (bear1134@aol.com) or 443 304-2266

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at (wwdsrogers@verizon.net)
or 410 647-7585

🎵 VOICES IN MELODY SPRING SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 4	O'Malley Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Monday, May 8	Annapolis Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 11	Pasadena Senior Center	12:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 18	Renditions (AARSPA)	10:00 a.m.
Friday, May 19	South County Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Monday, May 22	Arnold Senior Center	12:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 25	Future Care	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 1	Pascal Senior Center	12:30 p.m.

GOING GREEN !

With Verizon dropping their email services, a number of AARSPA members receiving the **AARSPA Informer** electronically could have new email addresses. If you went with another email provider and changed your email address, to assure that you continue to receive the newsletter via the Internet, we will need to update our database with our service provider. Similarly, anyone who would like to begin receiving the newsletter electronically, you can inform us of this desire, and we will gladly add you to this list as well.

If you have changed your email address or would like to begin receiving the **AARSPA Informer** electronically, simply email us at: (**asst.treasurer@aarspa.org**) and give us your new email address. It would help if you would include your full name and old email address with the new address for verification purposes.

LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



DATE: Thursday, May 18, 2017

PLACE: Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035

COST: \$32.00 per person



Registration.....9:45-10:30
 Business.....10:30-12:00
 Lunch.....12:00-12:45
 Entertainment.....12:45-1:30

No refunds after FIRM reservation deadline **Monday, May 1, 2017**

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

Entrée choices are chicken picatta or crab cake. Each entrée is served with a mixed green luncheon salad, mashed potatoes, a seasonal vegetable, and an ice cream sundae for dessert. Coffee, sweet tea, and iced water will be served with the meal.

Make check payable to AARSPA and mail payment and reservation form to: **Bob Kanach, 512 August Drive, Arnold, MD 21012**

Cut below and keep the upper portion for your reference!

LUNCH RESERVATION - DEADLINE MAY 1, 2017

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

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

Name(s) including contact person above	Chicken Piccata	Crab Cake
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number of reservations X \$32.00 per person = Total Due: _____

_____ Please check if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.

_____ Please check if you are an Emeritus Member (90 or greater)



Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day - April 22nd

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities to help the environment? Or, maybe you're interested in other volunteerism? You can go to serve.gov and type in the type of volunteer event that interests you. It's a great way to make an impact as well as to meet some great people along the way. You can also check with your local county, church, senior center or library for some other volunteer events in your area.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE NEWS



The Legislative Committee hosted a luncheon for the Anne Arundel County Delegation on February 16, 2017. The following delegates attended: Josephine Pena-Melnyk (District 21, aide), Seth Howard (District 30B), Ned Carey (District 31B), Meaghan Simonaire (District 31B), Pamela Beidle (District 32), Mark Chang (District 32), Ted Sophocleus (District 32, aide), Michael Malone (District 33), Tony McConkey (District 33), and Sid Saab (District 33). Senator Ed Reilly (District 33) also attended.

The MRSPA Legislative Committee supported seventeen bills in the General Assembly and opposed eight. The bills opposed included several attempts to change the State Retirement and Pension System in significant ways. These bills failed. The other two were SB 704 and HB 878 The Public Charter School Act of 2017, which would have established a state commission to govern charter schools instead of the local Boards of Education. These bills also failed.

On the plus side, we supported a number of bills that would enhance the lives of retirees and seniors. Many of these bills are on track to become law. To check the details, go to the Legislative page on the MRSPA website (www.mrspa.org).

As always, it has been an interesting session!



The **AARSPA Informer** staff is always looking for contributions from our membership. Consider submitting an "Under the AARSPA Spotlight" article, an original short poem or travel story, or a "School Days" memory. Send your ideas or suggestions for articles to the Editor at (kid3dle@aol.com).

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



The following contributions have been made to the scholarship fund:

In Honor of:

Robert Kanach for service to AARSPA beyond the call of duty!

In Memory of:

Maureen Belka
Daisy Harris
Frances Middleton
Alice Mitas
Sarah and James Pierce
Peggy Sange

Thank you for all your endeavors!



New Members 3-24-17

Donald Banks
Mark Heck
Linda Kirk
Sarah Kittle
Martha O'Hehir
Patricia Plitt
Barbara Zellej

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2017-18 Membership Directory will be available at the May meeting at Renditions. Please forward any change to your address, phone or email in the last year to the Membership Committee ASAP at (410) 798-0748 or (cmk825@msn.com)

IMPORTANT DATES**Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m.**

April 12, 2017 Center 2A
June 8, 2017 Free School
July 13, 2017 Center 2A

**General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.**

May 18, 2017 Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville

Other Dates

April 22, 2017 Pre-Retirement Workshop
 BOE Parham Building, Riva Road,
 Annapolis @ 8:30 a.m.
May 9, 2017 MRSPA Annual Meeting, Turf Valley
May 9, 2017 Monticello and Michie Tavern Trip

FREE SCHOOL UPDATE

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017, seventeen AARSPA members and friends stopped by the Free School for the annual sprucing up of the property. Inside, vacuums roared while the heady aromas of window cleaner and sanitizer permeated the air. Swifter Dusters chased cobwebs from desks and dust from artifacts. Outside, chain chaws buzzed as pruners clipped, creating a pile of refuse. Windows were cleaned to a sparkling finish while gutters were emptied of leaves. All of this activity, both inside and out, was punctuated with happy conversations and laughter. Within two and a half hours, the Annearrundell Free School Museum was once again ready to receive visitors.



First row (l to r): Bob Kanach, Carla Duls, Monica DeLucia, Marie Diamond, Karlie Everett, and Anthony Anzalone
 Back row (l to r): Ron Ruffo, Dave Foster, Rich O'Hara, Marge Smith, Carol Kirby, Gene Kirby, Herb Sappington, Jerry Everett, and Jim Duls
 Not pictured: Rosemary Biggart



Our season for Open Houses and Tours is beginning. The Annearrundell County Free School Museum will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the second Saturday and the second Sunday of April, May, June, July, and August. AARSPA members will serve as docents, but for the most part, you can tour the building and exhibits at your own pace staying as little or as long as you like. If you have already visited the Museum, you may want to visit again and see what's new, especially the new museum-quality display of artifacts. Bring your friends. Bring members from other groups in which you participate. If you prefer a special tour with a more structured approach and presentation, phone Karlie Everett (410-268-8656) to arrange.

Estelle Johnson has arranged for the children from Adams United Methodist Church in Lothian to experience lessons from 1700 and 1800 during the month of April. Also in April, students taking the Introduction to Teaching course at Chesapeake Senior High School, Severna Park Senior High School, and South River High School will visit the Museum during their study of the History of Education. In May, the annual family reunion at Fairview Farm will take place there with a visit to the Museum after festivities at the farm. In August, Barbara Hunter is arranging a tour for her Church group. A tour will also be provided for 20-25 members of the Board of Education's Planning Office. Finally, The Maryland Historical Trust, who helped with the financing of the restoration of the Annearrundell Free School Museum, will visit the Museum to observe how their investment is being maintained.

The Annapolis Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) has requested a presentation on the Free School Museum at their April 26, 2017, luncheon meeting.

FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER 2017 KISSIMMEE



Ron and June Ruffo



Rich and Rose O'Hara



Richard and Brenda Terry



Melissa Mowrey



Bryan and Debbie Groff, our hosts for 2017



Joyce Christie and Dianne Myers



Lois Porter and Terry Zablonki



Michael and Phyllis Kahat



Al and Jane Gurley



Donald and Barbara Gregg



Don and Annette Smith



Don and Deb Ahalt



Debbie Ahalt and Charlie Gable



Sue Centurelli and Barry Fader



Terry Zablonki picks the raffle winner.



President Fader addresses the group.



The "4 Amigos" (Charlie Gable, John Hammond, Bob Kanach, and Barry Fader) enjoy an air boat ride in the headwaters of the Everglades.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

TIPS FOR TRAVELING WITH GRANDCHILDREN



Traveling with your grandchildren can be a rewarding experience for you and your grandchild--- it can also be a nightmare. Hopefully, the following tips will help make the experience one filled with happy memories.

1. **Make sure the parents are comfortable:** They may be concerned about your ability to keep up with an energetic child. Be flexible if the parents want to join you on the trip.
2. **Involve the child in planning the trip:** You may want to allow them to choose between two possible destinations. Involve them in researching the various activities available at the destination and let them choose the ones of most interest to them. Check the library or Internet for pictures of the places to visit to develop the child's interest in the destination.
3. **Put their interests first:** When you have a child in tow, the agenda has to center on them—not you. Whatever the destination, it's important the activities be age-appropriate.
4. **Don't overdo:** Be sensitive to their body clocks. If the child still takes naps, plan them into the day. Eat meals at the time they are used to, even if it means a picnic. Pack a quiet activity for them to do while you are taking a nap.
5. **Give everyone space:** It can easily be worth the expense to have a suite allowing some time for separation; 24/7 for even a few days can be exhausting to everyone. If available, seek activities that are provided for children only.
6. **Consider buying travel insurance:** With children along there are even more risks of illness or injury. Many policies cover grandchildren at no additional charge.
7. **Pack Light:** Traveling with lots of luggage and a child in tow is asking for a stressful trip. They will want to travel with ALL their favorite toys, provide a small backpack and only allow them to take what fits into that case. Remind them they are responsible for carrying their own backpack.

FIRE UP THE GRILL SAFELY

The weather is getting warmer - fire up the grill safely! The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns each spring and summer to keep your grill at least 10 feet from a structure and to never use the grill in a garage, breezeway, porch or under a surface that can catch fire. To avoid accidents while transporting LP gas containers, consumers should transport the container in a secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape. Consumers should use extreme caution and always follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting LP gas containers.



SPRING CLEANING THE HEALTHY AND SAFE WAY

Spring cleaning can not just spruce up your home, but also improve your health, by ridding your home of dust and other allergens that accumulate in rooms sealed against winter drafts. But before your roll up your sleeves, consider which cleaners to use. Those that contain chemicals can irritate your eyes, skin and lungs. You might choose to use some of the "greener" cleaners that are reportedly better for your health and the environment, but be sure to carefully read the labels on those products, too. Spring is also a great time to change the furnace and/ or air conditioner filters, as well as to vacuum or dust your refrigerator's condenser coil, usually found under the unit. Check your vacuum's manual for instructions on how to replace the filter. Doing these spring cleanup chores can save you money on poorly-running appliances that merely need filters cleaned.

YARD SALES

Many people are into yard sales these days! Pick a nice weekend, make a plan, and put your merchandise out there for sale. If you're not interested in selling from your own yard or garage, check **garage salefinder.com** and type in your zipcode. You can find flea markets in your area where you can sell, or if you choose to have your own sale, you can post your sale free on this site. Yard sales are fun and a great way to recycle gently used merchandise.





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)*