



Informers

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

A Message from your President Lone Williams



Just in the nick of time AARSPA members and friends got away from the snow and ice in Maryland to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Florida Get-Togethers in the Sarasota area on January 27 & 28, 2011. The hospitality provided by Bob Harrell and Ginger, and Al and June Gurley at Bob's charming Nokomis home for Thursday's reception was absolutely delightful! Members gathered from parts of Florida and Maryland and other places to chat with old friends and meet new retirees while enjoying the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the now-famous Florida-Get-together Luncheon. Folks especially enjoyed sampling a variety of super-delicious foods, beverages, and desserts. A welcomed surprise to all was the arrival of one of the originators of the Florida luncheons -- the one-and-only, Margaret Sherkey. Margaret's arrival at the reception caused a lot of excitement, and everyone wanted to know the latest "tidbits" that Margaret had to share.

Friday's luncheon at the Jacaranda West Country Club in Venice was

"picture-perfect!" Everyone present enjoyed the extraordinary view of the lush-green golf course with accompanying water view, the good meal, stimulating conversation, and the great entertainment by The Lemon Bay High School Jazz Band under the direction of Josh Grosnicklaus. Table favors at each place included "make believe" Florida palm trees (made from corks and faux green palm leaves.)

Hosting the luncheon was Bob Harrell who welcomed all to this 20th Anniversary Celebration. He then asked all present to observe moments of silence for the passing of members who frequently attended the luncheons and who passed away since the last luncheon; which included Electa Holland who passed only a couple of weeks before this luncheon and Ginny Watts and all AARSPA members who passed away. Bob expressed remembrances of those who started the luncheons and also thanked the Florida members who assisted him in hosting this 20th luncheon. Bob called upon Jim Williams to offer prayer; which was then followed by lunch.

After lunch, Bob Harrell called upon this year's President to make a few remarks. Lone brought greetings from Maryland "snow birds" and thanked our Florida members for their very warm welcome. She also

(President's Message continued on page 2)

Officers 2011

President

Lone W. Williams
(410) 647-3283

President Elect

Robert "Bob" Kanach
(410) 693-7396

Immediate Past President

Alicia Hardisky
(410) 757-6762

Recording Secretary

John Hammond
(410) 674-2484

Asst. Recording Secretary

Lonnie Kelly
(410) 647-9489

Treasurer

Mary Overholser
(410) 674-5455

Assistant Treasurer

Patricia Ericson
(410) 969-5610

Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Mann
(410) 760-6272

AARSPA-Riva Road

(410) 222-5000

Dates to Remember

Executive Board Meetings, Central Office-Center 3, 10:00 a.m. Thursdays

April 14, 2011, June 6, 2011, July 21, 2011

General Membership Meetings, Thursdays

March 17, 2011 - Michael's Eighth Avenue, Glen Burnie

May 19, 2011 - Renditions - Davidsonville

Informers Deadlines

April 1, 2011

(President's Message continued)

thanked Bob and his assistants Ginger and June and Al Gurley, and all who helped in any way for the beautiful reception and luncheon. To show appreciation for their hospitality, Ione presented Bob with a gift of a framed photograph of our Free School, and also appreciation gifts to Ginger Babicky and June Gurley for their help in making this year's Get-Together a memorable occasion. Rounding out her remarks, Ione led the group in belting out a rousing AARSPA cheer!

Bob then called upon President-Elect Bob Kanach to make a few remarks, and he brought news about the e-mailing of The Informer newsletter, starting up an AARSPA website, and partnering with the Center of Applied Technology-North (CAT-N) in producing the The Informer newsletter. Members who do

not have computers or email access will still get their newsletter in the mail. Bob asked members who wish to receive their newsletter by email but have not submitted their email address to use the forms on the tables.

The luncheon concluded with the 50/50 Drawing, the winners of which are as follows: June Ruffo, Alice Roth, Eleanor Pitzer and Jean Curry. Note: June returned her winnings to be forwarded to the Lemon Bay High School Jazz Band which was our luncheon entertainment.

Alice Roth gave a few closing comments and also announced that the site of next year's Get-Together will be Naples. So put "Florida Get-Together" on your calendar for 2012 right now! Bob announced some unique places

that may be of interest to our Florida visitors to check out while they were in "The Sunshine State," and everyone departed for a safe journey to points north and south, east and west.

Attendees: Ginger Babicky, Donna Bartz, Phyllis Cherry, Jean Curry, Nancy & Norm Griner, June & Al Gurley, Bob Harrell, Joanne Hogan, Jane Iglehart, Mary Ann Iverson, Carolyn James, Ralph Johnson, Jeanne Jones, Bob Kanach, Marion Keenan, Anne Kifer, Joyce & Bob Masters, Max Muller, Shirley Phillips, Eleanor Pitzer, Dennis Roncoroni, Alice & Stewart Roth, Dottie & Dr. Frank Ruffo, June & Ron Ruffo, Barbara & Paul Rusko, Margaret Sherkey, Mary Ellen & Frank Street, Janet & Jack Tucker, Ione & Jim Williams.

Consumer Update

Alzheimers Myths

While Alzheimers is frightening, there are myths about what can cause it. According to the Alzheimers Association, if you hear any of the following, there is no known evidence associating it with Alzheimers:

1. Use of aluminum is linked to it.
2. The low calorie sweetener aspartame causes memory loss.
3. Flu vaccinations raise the risk.
4. Amalgam tooth fillings, which contain 50% mercury, affects the risk level.

Over-the-Counter Drugs

If you have high blood pressure, consult your doctor before using any over-the-counter (OTC) cold products. These can also be dangerous for people with diabetes, glaucoma or enlarged prostate. Cold remedies usually contain decongestants such as pseudoephedrine and phenylephrine that help clear a stuffy nose by narrowing blood vessels. They can also raise blood pressure and heart rate and alter blood sugar levels. Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking these medicines.

Be Careful Traveling

More travelers are getting sick. More than 3000 cases of potential infectious diseases among airline and cruise-ship passengers were reported to federal health officials last year. This is more than twice the number reported the previous year. Reported diseases included tuberculosis, whooping cough, measles, mumps and typhoid fever while most of those reported were due to the "swine flu". If you plan to travel, be sure your vaccinations are up-to-date. You may want to get medical advice before any trip, especially if you are traveling outside the country.

Your Pet

You live alone; so it is important that you take steps to ensure your pet is taken care of if you are in an accident. Choose a caregiver – someone your dog or cat is familiar with. Someone who can get into your house and knows how to take care of the animal. Keep the pet caregiver information in your wallet so that you can give it to emergency personnel. Be sure the

caregiver has information needed such as your pet's schedule and vet's number. You can sign an agreement with your vet that will allow him/her treat your pet in your absence if needed. It is also a good idea to put a rescue alert label in your window – this tells firefighters and other emergency personnel that there is a pet in the house.

Restrictions on Lenders when Someone Dies

Debts remaining are settled from the estate before heirs receive their inheritances. While the estate is being settled, credit card companies must stop adding fees and penalties to accounts. Outside of the estate, surviving family members usually are not obligated to pay the debts of the deceased. If debt collectors call, refer them to the estate executor or administrator.

Believe it or Not

Purple, violet and lavender enhance your brain power. These colors have a surprisingly strong effect on your ability to think and therefore achieve.

If you would like information on new members and/or member corrections, please contact the Membership Committee.

Dr. Theodore (Ted) Brown: A Remarkable Individual

Washington Irving once noted that, "He is the true enchanter; whose spell operates, not upon the senses, but upon the imagination and heart." Without a doubt, Ted Brown has embodied Irving's observation – enchanting, educating and entertaining the imaginations and hearts of thousands of all ages said Angela Smooker in Anne Arundel County Community College Peer Review. When he was a senior in high school he began taking piano lessons and in nine month's time he was playing Rachmaninoff for a recital. He liked playing so much he would often practice as much as eight hours a day.

After high school, he enrolled at Peabody's Institute Preparatory in Baltimore going through eight levels of rigorous and comprehensive study

in music education in two years. From Peabody he went to Catholic University for two years to study to become a classical pianist. Instead of becoming a classical pianist he decided to enroll at The University of Maryland and earn a B.S. in music education and become a music teacher. After two years teaching sixth-graders at Kentland Elementary, he came to Anne Arundel County as a vice-principal at Lake Shore and Belvedere Elementary. He began working on his Master's in music education. He was a principal at Belvedere, Folger McKinsey and Crofton Elementary Schools. He earned a doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1963. He was an innovator as a principal, introducing clubs such as chess, painting, square dancing and sign language as well as theater arts. With these clubs,

academic achievement improved as did discipline. Ted also found time to teach piano privately. "Teaching piano paid my way all through college," said Ted. After serving as a principal for ten years, he became a resource teacher in the Gifted Program. This gave him an opportunity to do what he loved, "working with the arts." After learning of a chance to launch his own program Masters and Maestros Series, he did this for 30 years for over 4380 audiences in the U.S. and Canada.

Ted has slowed down but continues to teach music and art classes at the Annapolis and Arnold Senior Centers. When asked by Ms. Smookler what he planned for the future, Ted replied, "I want to keep teaching. And I'd like to give a concert."

SPRING IS COMING AND TWO MUSICAL SHOWS ARE BOOKED!

April 16, 2011 - "Liberty Smith" at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

This is a new musical comedy that romps through the American Revolution to identify who was the Father of Our Country. Was it George Washington, Ben Franklin, Paul Revere or Thomas Jefferson or was it just plain old Liberty Smith?

Tickets are available for the 2:30 P.M. matinee performance on the above date. Cost per ticket is \$47 and includes an orchestra seat, bus transportation from Annapolis and a theater restoration fee. The museum will be open prior to the show and we will build in time for a visit there. And the museum is free! There will be only one departure location for this trip at the Board of Education parking lot on Riva Road.

If you are interested in this theater trip, please complete the form below and mail to:

Howard Hall, 704 Ballast Way, Annapolis, MD 21401 **Tickets and information about departure times will be mailed to you.*

Reservations for "Liberty Smith" Ford's Theater, Washington, D. C. April 16, 2011, 2:30 P.M. Performance

Please reserve _____ tickets for me. A check made payable to AARSPA Theater Trip for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

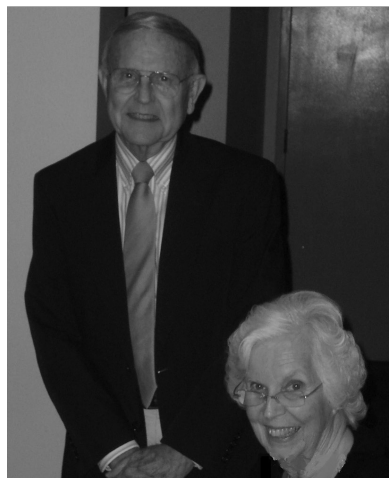
Names of others in your group: _____

Want to see some more...



Above: June and Ron Ruffo, and Ione Williams

Below: Al and June Gurley



Above: Joanne Hogan and Jeanne Jones

...Check out more Florida Luncheon pictures on page 8!

June 15, 2011 - "Follies" the musical

The Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C.

This Stephen Sondheim musical is being revived by Kennedy Productions and will have six weeks of performances there before opening in New York in the fall.

Many familiar songs are in "Follies" including Broadway Baby, I'm Still Here and Ever Would I Leave You. Starring in this musical are Bernadette Peters, Linda Lavin, Florence Lacey and Elaine Page. This musical comedy is about seven showgirls who had sung and danced at the theater scheduled for demolishing. It is a reunion for them.

The cost is \$91 per ticket which includes an orchestra seat ticket, bus transportation and handling fee charges. The performance is at 1:30 P.M. The bus will depart from the Board of Education Parking Lot at around noon time. Tickets will be mailed to you, along with departure time.

If you are interested in this theater trip, please complete the form below and mail to:
Howard Hall, 704 Ballast Way, Annapolis, MD 21401 * *Tickets and information about departure times will be mailed to you.*

Reservations - "Follies" the musical at the Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater, Washington, D. C. June 15, 2011, 1:30 P.M. Performance

Please reserve _____ tickets for me. A check made payable to AARSPA Theater Trip for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Names of others in your group: _____

Remembrance/Sunshine

Member Deaths

Millicent Caton
Myra Cason
Electa Holland
Charles Leisure
Nellie Lewis
Norma Mezick
Ruth Pratt
Margaret Tyler

Death of Family Members

Lillian Harvey - husband
Marjorie Welsh - husband

Get Well Cards

Martha Collison
Barbara Mason
Arlene Wells

Please save this list to notify us at the deaths, get wells, birthdays, and anniversaries of our members.

Nina Griffith: Death Notices
Home phone: (443) 304-2266
email: Bear1134@aol.com

Dianne Rogers: Get Well/Thinking of You/Anniversaries
Home phone: (410) 647-7585
email: wwdrogers@verizon.net

Sandie Sweeney: Birthdays
Home phone: (410) 544-1359
email: shalimar428@aol.com

Stay informed!

*You can also read
AARSPA's Informer
online at:*

www.AARSPA.org

***Click on AARSPA
Informer on the
left-hand side***

Legislative Update

The Report of the Public Employees and Retirees Benefit Sustainability Commission has been sent to the General Assembly. They reported that the Goals of Reform are to:

- *Preserve the Defined Benefit*
- *Ensure the Medical and Prescription Benefit [not for school employees]*
- *Reduce Unfunded Liabilities*
- *Increase System Funding Levels*
- *Ensure Sustainable Pension Funding*

You can find a link to the complete report at mrspa.org. It is important for us to focus on what is or may be happening during the current legislative session. The first important and good news for us is that Governor O'Malley stated to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) that he would not seek to shift the cost of retirement to the subdivisions this year. This was made evident in the Governor's budget. Governor O'Malley and the Legislature acknowledged that the unfunded liabilities in the Retiree's Pension and Retiree Health System are a threat to the financial stability of the state. This year several of the proposed reforms relate to the Retiree Health System (school employees are not members). The current proposals (as of February 1), have no impact on current retirees. They also have no impact on benefits already earned by active or former employees/teachers. The Attorney General has ruled that changes cannot be made to the COLA benefits of retirees.

The primary changes for benefits earned for service in FY 2012 and future years for active teachers will have to make a one time choice to pay 5% (current rate) of salary with an adjusted benefit (multiplier will go from 1.8% to 1.5%) or increase their contribution to

7% of pay and continue to earn benefits at the current rate (1.8%). Teachers will be vested after 10 years instead of the current 5. Early retirement age will increase from 55 to 60. Benefits will be calculated on the highest 5 years of salary rather than the highest three years. A new term being used is the "Rule of 92". This means that full benefits could only be received when the combination of age and years of service equals 92.

Our great concern is what the legislators will do with the Governor's Budget. There is still a desire on the part of some legislators (for example, Mike Miller, President of the Senate) to have the counties share more in the cost of our pensions. We maintain that since the school systems are fiscally dependent on the counties the money would have to come from cuts in the school budget. We believe that the first cuts would come from our health care plans.

What Do We Do Now?

Contact your local legislators by email, letter, phone call, or personal visit. Ask them to tell you what their position is. Tell them what you want them to do. Ask your friends, neighbors, former and present colleagues to contact their legislators to support our concerns.

Attend the United Seniors of Maryland Rally, March 9, 9:00-2:30, Key Auditorium, St. Johns College. The morning session will be a town hall meeting with Governor O'Malley, President of the Senate Miller, and Speaker of the House Busch. This will be followed by caucus meetings with our local delegates and senators.

You may contact Virginia Crespo, Legislative Chair, for more information.



Our AARPSA Chorus, Voices in Melody, singing at the Board of Education on December 21, 2010.

From The Newsletter Committee - We Keep Trying

Never did we realize that so many problems would have to be worked out in order to use the internet for our newsletter. Thank you one and all who would like to get your Informer via e-mail and have supplied us with your addresses. We want you to know that our goal is to eventually use the internet and/or e-mail, but we still have some difficulties. We appreciate your patience.

Partners in Care Needs Help

In these difficult times, the need for services is greater than ever; however, resources to provide services are scarce. Expenses are being cut by not accepting new clients needing services and salaried staff who have left not being replaced. Some personnel have been placed on 10% furloughs and reimbursement of drivers' fuel expenses has been delayed.

Currently, 15% of the state's population is aged 60 and over. It is impossible to imagine that our community can survive without Partners in Care which provides trips to doctors, the store, physical therapy or a handyman to fix a leak or make a small repair. Without these services many people could not stay in their own homes. If you would like to help Partners in Care, you may send a contribution to: **Partners in Care, 6 South Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122.**

Many AARSPA members volunteer or use the services provided so the Executive Board of AARSPA feels it is important to make the members aware of the problem.

AARSPA's Newsletter, *The Informer*, was designed by Heather Kucha, Desktop Publishing student at the Center of Applied Technology North. *The Informer* nameplate was created by Shawna Allen, also from Desktop Publishing. *The Informer* was printed by the Center of Applied Technology North's Level Two Printing Technologies class.

Free Tax Return Help Available

Tax payers over age 60 and those individuals of any age, in the low-income tax brackets, can have their tax returns prepared by AARP TAX-AIDE volunteers. The service includes completion and filing of their federal and state returns for FREE. The volunteers are also available to answer questions. The AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers are trained using materials and input from the Internal Revenue Service and the Maryland Comptroller's Office. Tax payers should not schedule appointments until they have received all their W-2's, 1099R's, interest and dividend statements, etc. Participants should bring their last year's returns with them.

Maryland City Library, 301 Russett Common
Maryland City, John Johnson, 301-261-3057
Wednesdays 1-5 P.M., Walk-ins

South County Library, 5940 Deale-Churchton Rd
Deale, Jeannine Smith, 410-867-4970, By Appt.

No. County Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie
Audrey Creamer, 410-255-6964, Fridays, By Appt.

Severna Park Library, 45 W. McKinsey Road
Severna Park, Frank Winner, 410-647-3335
Mondays & Wednesdays, 9-noon, By Appt.

Heritage Community Church of God, Severn
Bob Evans, 410-987-6499, By Appt.

Annapolis Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis
Julia Fegley, 410-571-8942, Fridays 1-4, By Appt.

Knights of Pythias, 2529 Old Solomons Is. Rd
Annapolis, Bob Sacha, 410-647-4143
Saturdays 8-noon, Walk-ins

Heritage Harbour Community Center, Annapolis
Jody Kelley, 410-573-0188
Thursdays 1-5, Residents Only

Broadneck Library, 1275 Green Holly Drive,
Broadneck, Betty Rogers, 410-757-4412,
Tuesday 1-4, By Appt.

Arundel Lodge, Annapolis, Frank Winner
410-647-3335, Residents Only

Attending the Annual Florida Luncheon in January were...



Above: *Bob Harrell, Margaret Sherkey, and Barbara Rusko*

Below: *Ione and Jim Williams with Margaret Sherkey and Marion Keenan*



Left: *Max Muller, Ginger Babicky, and Dennis Roncoroni*



Right: *Shirley Phillips, Donna Bartz, and Jean Curry*



Above: *Carolyn James*

Right: *Janet and Jack Tucker*



Volunteer Opportunity - Mentoring Benfield Elementary Students

I would like to invite AARSPA members to consider taking part in our mentoring program. As a mentor, you will be matched with a child who could benefit from a little extra attention and you will meet with that child once a week at Benfield Elementary. All mentors will participate in a volunteer orientation, training session and background check.

Mentors are encouraged to come during the child's lunch period and eat together in the school cafeteria or a quieter setting. Following the lunch period, mentors spend the recess period with their child, either playing together, working on a school assignment, or just talking.

As a retired teacher, principal, or other AACPS employee, you are uniquely qualified to make a difference in the life of a child. If you have the extra time and attention to give, please consider joining us in this new program. You will be richly rewarded by knowing that a small investment of your time and talent has meant so much to one of our students.

Please contact Tammy Perunovich at 410-222-6555 or email to tperunovich@aacps.org for more information.

Luncheon & General Membership Meeting

On Thursday, March 17, 2011, we will have our luncheon at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, MD

Registration ----- 9:45 - 10:30

Business ----- 10:30 - 12:00

Guest Speakers:

Bonnie Brose, MRSPA President

Tish Raff, MRSPA Legislative Aide

Lunch ----- 11:45 - 12:45

Entertainment ---12:45 - 1:30

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

DEADLINE: March 11, 2011

No Refund After March 11th

LUNCHEON RESERVATION - DEADLINE MARCH 11, 2011

No Refund After March 11th

Name of person(s) attending _____

Phone _____ No. of reservations _____

Cost is \$25 Amount Enclosed: _____

Two Entree Choices:

_____ Boneless Chicken Breast w/flavorful Bread Stuffing, baked and topped with Delicious Chicken Gravy

_____ Stir Fried Mixed Vegetables over Rice

Italian Mixed Vegetable Medley, Au Gratin Potatoes, Fresh Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls with Butter, Coffee/Tea and Sheet Cake

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AARSPA AND MAIL TO:

Ms. Pat Ericson, 8223 Grainfield Road, Severn, Maryland 21144.

_____ Check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.

_____ Check here if you are an Emeritus Member (age 90 or over)



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 _____ an 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:

Karlie Everett
725 Warren Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

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:

Karlie Everett • karlieeverett@verizon.net • 410-268-8656

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/CH 1395/28a (Rev. 1/11)*



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