



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
February 2018

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Co-Presidents Dixie Stack and Bonnie Schmeltz

Happy Valentine's Day! Fight off the chill of the winter days with someone special. Those of us traveling to Florida for the 27th annual "Florida- Get – Together" March 8th and 9th are looking forward to a respite from the cold temperatures and again visiting with our Florida colleagues. Currently it appears that we have more than 40 folks who plan to join us at the Villages. We would like to thank Terry Zablonki in advance for hosting the cocktail hour and arranging the space for our Friday membership meeting and luncheon.

In mid-January, several of us braved the cold and snow to attend the annual United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Legislative Forum. We had the opportunity to listen to several state leaders and meet in caucus with our county delegates. Virginia Crespo led the caucus for Anne Arundel County. Despite the inclement weather, we had a great turn-out of county delegates, who seemed sincerely interested in the issues that are priorities for our AARSPA members. They encouraged members to contact them with concerns by phone, mail or

email. Virginia has also organized a legislative luncheon for Wednesday, February 21st.

Our February meeting at Blue Dolphin included two members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, an organization that works tirelessly to protect retirement and pension benefits and offers a number of excellent benefits for things like legal and consumer services. We also had the opportunity to recognize Bill Brose for his wonderful work with the AARSPA website. Tony Spencer, a retired Annapolis Fire Fighter and Anne Arundel County Board of Education member, shared the legacy of African American, James Spencer. Tony is a gifted storyteller and his presentation was enjoyed by all. Doug Hart and **The Big Crabtown Band** provided wonderful entertainment during lunch.

The MRSPA annual business luncheon meeting will be held on May 8th at the Comfort Inn in Bowie. AARSPA is entitled to send 20 delegates. These meetings provide lots of interesting information and a perspective on the work of our state organization. If



you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact us no later than March 30, 2018, so we can submit your name as a registered delegate.

While we are now halfway through our first year of the two year presidency, we recognize the effort that some of our members provide in supporting the work of AARSPA. Folks have taken on multiple responsibilities to maintain the quality of our organization. There is much untapped potential in our membership. Won't you consider stepping up to keep the work of this worthwhile organization moving forward?

We are shaped and
fashioned by what
we love.

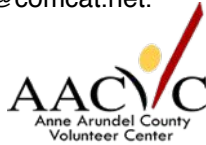
-Goethe





The Community Service Committee has added a new feature to the AARSPA website. We are now providing a link to the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center, which posts volunteer opportunities within the county. Some of the events need volunteers for one or two specific dates, such as ushering at a play or concert, weeding a garden, or putting up signs for an event. Others are longer commitments such as driving someone to doctor appointments or tutoring within a school.

If you are a member of an organization seeking volunteers or donated items, let us know. We will post this information on the website. Please contact Phyllis Cherry at pacherry@comcat.net.



“Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others.” (Booker T. Washington) Based on this quotation, AARSPA is a group of very happy people. When members of the committee deliver donations to the various organizations, we are smiling when we leave, even if we weren't when we arrived. The smiles of the children, the workers at the shelters, and maybe even the animals at the shelter are a testament to the great work of this organization.

From the Scholarship Committee

Thank you for sowing your seeds of kindness to benefit our youth as they strive to make their dream a reality - to become an educator!

In memory of:

Ann M. Beers - Counselor, a true Southern lady, gentle, warm, considerate, thoughtful, and loyal soul

Joseph Diamond

Mary Ann Iverson

Elizabeth Jansky

Janice Kaiser

Florence Kerwath

Dorothy Rembold



Going Green

While reviewing the electronic distribution of the January, 2018, **AARSPA Informer**, we noticed that we had a number of members' email addresses “bounce.” This means that our service provider was not able to send the newsletter to these folks, probably because we have an incorrect email address for them. If your name appears below, and you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, all you need to do is send your correct email address to asst.treasurer@aarspa.org. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you prefer the newsletter sent to you via US Mail.

Charlotte Boseman	Shirley Brooks	Elizabeth Grimaldis
Bonnie Habicht	Nancy Jaska	Rose Johnson
Lynne Kyle	Carol Lady	Rosemary Miller
William R. Norris	Phyllis Page	Hattie Penn
Barbara Remias	Cheryl L. Smith	Mary Steffey
Allen Stemple	Carol Strigle	Ronald “Dale” Wagner

If there are any other members that would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, we ask that you please send your email address to asst.treasurer@aarspa.org as well. Finally, if you are receiving the newsletter both electronically and via US Mail, please email us at the above address and let us know by which method you prefer to receive the **AARSPA Informer**. This duplication is costing you and your association money.

Membership

- Member Directories will be available at the May Luncheon at Renditions.
- Please notify the Membership Committee before March 1st if you have had a change of address or telephone number.
- You can contact AARSPA Membership three ways:
 - email - membership@aarspa.org
 - call - (410) 798-0748
 - Write - 121 River Road, Edgewater, MD 21037

MRSPA Members: SWITCH to dues deduction; **SAVE** \$10 on membership dues for 2018-2019!

Local Only Members: JOIN MRSPA with dues deduction; **SAVE** & enjoy **MRSPA BENEFITS**.

Questions: Call 410 798-0748

New Members 12/1/17 - 2/12/18

Angela Barber
 Maria Chapman
 Catherine Gilbert
 Pamela O'Meara
 Sarah Sheckells
 Donna Usewick





The Back Road to Freedom Tour

"The Harriet Tubman Story"

Wednesday, May 16, 2018



We will travel across the Chesapeake Bay to Maryland's Eastern Shore. First, we meet our guide at the Hampton Inn in Easton before traveling to the Sailwinds Visitor Center in Cambridge. We begin our tour with a brief orientation where you will receive your souvenir copy of the Maryland Harriet Tubman Underground Railway Map. Next, we set out on a journey through the back roads of Dorchester and Caroline Counties, following in the footsteps of Harriet Tubman and other Freedom Seekers as they made their way from **Slavery to Freedom**. In the decades before the Civil War, Harriet Tubman repeatedly risked her life to guide nearly 70 enslaved people to new lives in the North. We will see where she was born, travel to where she lived as a child, worshiped, labored and learned of the greater world of freedom. We will also hear stories about her family. We conclude our morning with a stop at the new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument, created by President Obama in March, 2013.

A delicious lunch is included in Cambridge. **Please provide a meal choice when making your reservation below.** Relax and enjoy the **Portside Restaurant's** panoramic view of historic Cambridge Creek while you dine.

In the afternoon, we are off to follow "Freedom Road." Along the way, our guide will entertain and educate us with memorable tales about Harriet Tubman's heroic escape to freedom. You will see villages, churches, graveyards, homes, and places of business that participated in the **Underground Railroad**. People risked their fortunes, lives, and freedom to help the "freedom seekers." Stories about bounty hunters who looked to make their fortune capturing these runaway slaves and the slave owners concerned over the end of the life they had known will be shared.

\$109.00 Per Person

(Includes transportation, guided Backroad to Freedom Tour - "The Harriet Tubman Story", lunch, all taxes and tips, including the driver, Gunther Tours escort and step-on guide)

Send **checks payable to AARSPA** to
Bob Kanach, 512, Augusta Road, Arnold, MD. 21012

DEADLINE APRIL 10, 2018

Itinerary	
7:30 a.m.	Luxury bus departs Methodist Church on Benfield Blvd., Severna Park
8:30 a.m.	Arrive in Easton to begin morning tour
12:30 p.m.	Arrive at Portside Restaurant for Crab Cake or Grilled Chicken Sandwich
1:45 p.m.	Depart for afternoon tour with guide
5:00 p.m.	Return to Easton then depart for Severna Park
6:30 p.m.	Arrive at the parking lot of Methodist Church on Benfield Blvd.

✂ Contact Person _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Guest's Name (Including contact person above)	Crab Cake Sandwich	Grilled Chicken Sandwich
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

of reservations _____ X \$109.00 = _____ Total

Send check made out to AARSPA to Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Road, Arnold, MD 21012
DEADLINE April 10, 2018

News You Can Use

Thinking about spring-cleaning? These tips may make the job a little easier.

Carpet stains: Mix 2 tablespoons hydrogen peroxide with 1 tablespoon dish liquid. (For a larger batch always use half as much dish liquid as the amount of hydrogen peroxide.)

Floor Grout: Heat a cup of white vinegar in the microwave; add a small amount of dish soap.

Jewelry Cleaner: Mix seven parts hot water with one part ammonia OR Mr. Clean. Dip an old SOFT toothbrush into this mixture and gently rub your jewelry until it looks new.

Weed Killer: Mix 2 teaspoons dish detergent, with 2 cups ordinary table salt and 1 gallon of vinegar. This is nontoxic and safe for the environment. But remember, it will kill all plants.

What can the Attorney General do for you?

Do you need help resolving disputes with businesses such as car dealers, repair shops, cell phone companies, and retailers? What about medical insurance or medical equipment that is defective or was never delivered? Help is free at the Attorney General's office.

For assistance call 410-528-1840 or toll-free in Maryland at 1-877-261-8807.

Scam Alert!

Tech Support: Microsoft NEVER calls you about a computer problem. The caller is trying to get your password so they can access the information on your computer including your banking account information. **Hang Up!!**

Say YES Scam: Scammers will attempt to trick you into answering a question with "yes" and record your voice. The questions may be, "Can you hear me?" "Are you a homeowner?" Scammers then use this as your agreement to a certain purchase. **In Maryland, you cannot agree to a purchase by a recorded "yes." You must also agree in writing to the purchase.** If you have answered "yes" to



anyone you don't know, monitor your accounts for unauthorized withdrawals or credit card charges. Remember as a child being told not to talk to strangers? It remains true when someone calls you on the telephone!!

Visit the AARSPA Facebook Page!

If you're already on Facebook, search for "**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association**" and click on the link to our page.

On the **AARSPA** page there will be a "**Like**" button next to our name at the top of the page. We want you to "Like" us! Take a minute to look through the postings.

After you have "Liked" the page, you may want to find the logo that allows you to "**Suggest to Friends.**" You'll see a window that lets you click and select friends from your personal page. After you've selected your friends, click "**Send Invitation,**" and your message is on its way, and they can visit us, too.

If you're not on Facebook but want to be, go to www.facebook.com and follow the steps to sign up. It's quite simple, and you can add as little or as much information as you'd like. Once you're logged in, you can search for friends, colleagues, neighbors, family members - anyone you'd like to connect or reconnect with. And you can visit the AARSPA page! If you're **not** on Facebook and have no interest in joining, that's fine!

The page is a "work in progress," so check back often to see what's been posted!



DID YOU KNOW.....

"Facebook Addiction Disorder" is a mental disorder identified by psychologists.

Cherophobia is the fear of fun.

You cannot snore and dream at the same time.

The average person walks the equivalent of twice around the world in a lifetime.



REMEMBRANCE

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 wddsrogers@verizon.net or 410 647-7585

USM FORUM

From the Free School



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Executive Director, Wanda Ruffo Twigg; USM, AARSPA, and MRSPA Legislative Chair, Virginia Crespo, and USM Representative, Carla Duls



Immediate Past President
Barry Fader



Co-President
Dixie Stack

By the time the Anne Arundel County Public Schools closed for the day on January 17 officially cancelling the United Seniors of Maryland/AARP Maryland Legislative Forum, a group of hardy seniors had already arrived at the Senate Office Building in Annapolis, and so, the Forum went on as planned. Although attendance was small, the excitement and enthusiasm of the attendees was undimmed. Speakers during the morning portion of the event included Tammy Bresnahan, AARP Maryland; the Honorable Jimmy Tarlau, House Delegate; Secretary Rona Kramer, Maryland Department of Aging; and Jim Campbell, President AARP Maryland. Following the morning program, attendees met in caucus with area delegations. The luncheon speaker was Dorinda Adams, who provided an update on the Commission on Caregiving.

AARSPA members present included Past President Barry Fader, Co-President Dixie Stack, USM Representative Carla Duls, and Legislative Chair Virginia Crespo who also serves as USM Legislative Chair.

IMPORTANT DATES

Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m.	
June 7, 2018	Free School
July 12, 2018	Center 2A
General Membership Meeting - 10:30 a.m.	
May 10, 2018	Renditions
Other Dates	
March 8-9, 2018	Get-Together, The Villages
April 1, 2018	AARSPA Informer Deadline
May 8, 2018	MRSPA Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn, Bowie
May 16, 2018	The Back Road to Freedom Tour



Established in 1724, the Anne Arundell County Free School Museum is owned by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and operated by the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA). Each spring and summer, the Museum is open to the public free-of-charge with AARSPA members serving as docents. The Open Houses are from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the second Saturday and second Sunday of April, May, June, July, and August.

AARSPA has a wonderful cadre of members who serve as docents and we are always looking to increase our group of volunteers. Like our membership numbers, sometimes our volunteer numbers are affected by people moving or life-changing events.

It would be wonderful if our cadre of volunteers gave us the opportunity to have more docents than we minimally need. With more than one person participating during an Open House day, we have a couple of ways we can handle the assignment. Two people can spend the whole Open House time together which is nice way to make a new friend or the two people can split the Open House time. Furthermore, having more than one person in a time slot provides back-up in the event a docent has an emergency. (We have had a docent with a roadside emergency while on her way to the Museum.)

If you are interested in serving as a docent, please contact Karlie Everett (karlieeverett@verizon.net or 410-268-8656). Materials are available to help the docent with important information about the logistics of opening the building and information about its history. Please consider joining this group of AARSPA volunteers who are helping to keep this historical gem open to the public.



By the numbers.....

In 2017, the Free School had 219 visitors. Sixty people visited the Open Houses held April through August. Seventy-seven guests visited on tours without school marms while eighty-two took tours with school marms. An additional forty-seven individuals visited the Free School on AARSPA business.

In contrast, in 2010, a total of 153 people visited the Free School.



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)*