



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

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A lot has occurred since our October 2016 newsletter! AARSPA members joined with the Community Service Committee to participate in a very successful 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's in October. In November, we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at CAT-N. We had 145 members and guests in attendance. Everyone appeared to enjoy the food prepared by the students, especially the desserts! We collected a large number of canned food items as well as checks for the AACPS participation in the Harvest for the Hungry campaign. In addition, the Executive Board allocated \$200 for the collection by the Salvation Army.

Members from the Executive Board and Legislative Committee attended an informative legislative workshop presented by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) in Annapolis. We will be working closely with our legislative representatives this winter to protect our pension plan and support other senior and retiree issues. You can follow the legislative bills and what the representatives do by accessing the MRSPA website. For those of you who are not MRSPA members, you may want to reconsider membership in

MRSPA. They are extremely supportive of all of the state organizations and put in countless hours monitoring legislation that may affect all of us.

We had a wonderful trip to Toby's Dinner Theatre on December 14. Those in attendance had a wonderful buffet lunch followed by an outstanding performance of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. During the holiday season, the AARSPA chorus, Voices in Melody, sang Christmas music for a variety of senior groups. As you can see, we have been rather busy for the past few months.

We have a lot on our agenda for the remainder of the year. We will need additional help with monitoring the up-coming legislative session. We have two luncheons to plan. The Free School will be opening again in the spring, and we could use additional docents and general maintenance help. Plans are being finalized for a spring trip. Stay tuned to future issues of the *AARSPA Informer* for details. Furthermore, you are encouraged to attend the get-together in Kissimmee, Florida on March 9-10. Our chorus, Voices in Melody, welcomes new members to participate



in the spring performances. Please pitch in with your colleagues to help us to successfully implement our many projects.

As many of you may recall, we have a large membership, nearly 2000 members. However, we need members to step up and assist the handful of members that do the majority of the work to maintain the success of AARSPA. Please give me a call or email to let me know how YOU can help!



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S



Front row: Tillie Barckley, Elysa Hines, Teresa Moir, Deb Ahalt, Karlie Everett, and Antoinette Hines.
Back row: Jim Duls, Eryn Hines, Dan Ahalt, Phyllis Cherry, and Carla Duls.

On Sunday, October 23, 2016, the "AARSPA From the Heart" team once again participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's held in downtown Annapolis.

Debbie and Dan Ahalt, Matilda Barkley with her daughter Antoinette Hines and granddaughters Eryn and Elysa Hines, Phyllis Cherry, Carla and Jim Duls, Karlie Everett, and Teresa Moir walked the two-mile route through historic downtown Annapolis.

AARSPA members can be very proud of themselves and their teams's fundraising efforts. Team "AARSPA From the Heart" placed number 12 of 129 teams, having raised \$3,643. Fifty contributions were made to the AARSPA team, ranging from \$5 to \$500. AARSPA also had two Grand Champions, Deb Ahalt and Carla Duls, who raised over \$1,000 each.

Once again, the planning committee is proud of the team's accomplishment and are grateful for the continued support of AARSPA members.



FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

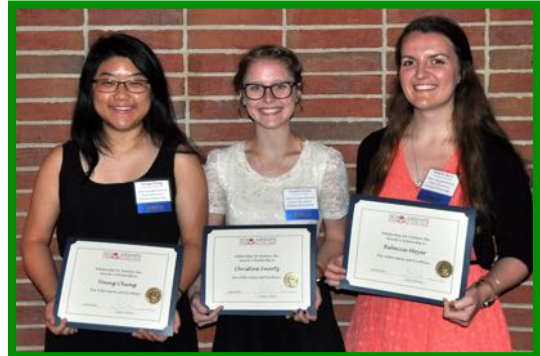
An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. Thank you for investing!

In Memory of:

- Rose Rausch
- Florence Kerwath
- Jim Cain
- Vivian Gomba
- Jeanne McGinnis
- Gregory McKain



AARSPA 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Young Chung, Christine Schwartz and Rebecca Meyer

I am currently a freshman at **Salisbury University** and the end of the semester is taking its toll on me! I have been very successful this semester as my current standings in my classes are all A's. I put in a lot of hard work this semester, but all of the work is paying off now. My classes included Reconceptualizing Math for Elementary School Teachers, Honors Critical Thinking and Writing, Drawing I, and Earth and Space Science. I am still grateful for the scholarship that I received from AARSPA.

Thank you,
Rebecca Meyer



My first semester at the **University of Maryland** has been nothing short of amazing. I took six courses this semester: Academic Writing, an honors seminar about justice in literature and film, an honors colloquium, Introduction to Mass Communication, and Introduction to Inquiry-Based Teaching. I learned a lot from my education class and I am so happy to announce that I was offered a TA position from my professor for the next semester! I want to extend my gratitude for the AARSPA scholarship.

Thank you so much for your support!
Young Chung



My first few months at **James Madison University** have been more of a change than I could ever have imagined. My classes have been engaging and interesting, making it easier to want to do homework and projects. My math and science classes are designed specifically for future teachers and have opened my eyes to the ways we can change how we teach to better meet the needs of our students. I am thankful every day to go to such an amazing school and have the opportunity to pursue the career of my dreams.

Thank you AARSPA,
Christine Schwartz





Distributing "gifts" was the focus of the Community Service Committee's activities for the month of December. On behalf of the AARSPA Membership, \$200 was donated to The Salvation Army for use in the Annapolis area. Also during December, Anthony Anzalone and Karlie Everett distributed toiletries collected at our luncheons to the Arden House Domestic Violence Shelter (YWCA in Arnold) and to Sarah's House (Catholic Charities on Ft. Meade). A special thank you goes to John and Judy Youngblood who went through all the toiletry donations and divided the items into two groups for distribution.



Deb Ahalt delivered AARSPA's donations from the November luncheon to Friends of Anne Arundel County Animal Control. Contributions, which were very much welcomed at the shelter, included pet food, pet treats and much needed used towels.

Honoring Our Veterans

If anyone would like to honor a veteran in their family, you can register their information and a picture to several memorials and Branch of Service Museums or Memorials. These include:

- The World War II Memorial in DC
- The Korean War Memorial Registry in DC
- The National Museum of US Army in Fort Belvoir
- US Navy Memorial in DC
- Together We Served
- US Air Force Remembrance Roll of Honor



If a veteran's information has been lost, you can request their military documents at (<http://www.mass.gov/veterans/cemeteries-and-honors/military-records/national-personnel-records-center.html>).

I am happy to help anyone who would like to honor a military family member. Email me (msjohara@yahoo.com) or call at 410-295-5474.

Joanne Christofel

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

Helen Keller

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

Benjamin Franklin

Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress.

Charles Kettering

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Edith Lovejoy Pierce

DON'T FORGET!

At the February Luncheon, we will collect clothing items for healthrooms at two elementary schools for children who have accidents.



- New underwear, socks, tights
- For Point Pleasant Elementary School, new or gently worn sweat pants in sizes 5-12
- For Van Bokklen Elementary, a uniform school, new or gently worn pants/shorts, jumper/skorts should be khaki, black or navy in color while polo shirts should be plain navy or white or blue in color. Sizes should be 4T to 10.

In October 2017, the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services will hold the annual **Homeless Resource Day**, offering services to over 500 adults and families. Over 90 organizations, including AACPS, donate time, services, and goods. **TRAVEL-SIZE toiletries** collected during future luncheons will be donated to this event. Please donate only **TRAVEL-SIZE** items.



We will also be collecting for our furry friends at the February luncheon!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Thinking About Listening to Podcasts?

Podcasts got their name from combining parts of AppleiPod and broadcast. Podcasts first came onto the scene in a big way in 2005 when Apple added support with their devices. Today, you can use almost any device to access them. Podcasts are simply prerecorded broadcasts that can be subscribed to. There is usually no charge and almost anyone can start a podcast from their living room. To listen to a podcast you just get an app for Android or Apple devices. The app does all the work for you. These are usually free and also help you search and find podcasts that you might be interested in. Once you subscribe to a podcast, new episodes are delivered automatically. Some popular podcasts to get you started:

1. "This American Life" is a public weekly radio show hosted by Ira Glass.
2. "The TED Radio Hour" describes itself as a journey through fascinating ideas, astonishing inventions, fresh approaches to old problems, new ways to think and create.
3. "Stuff You Missed in History Class" is a favorite that covers strange and unusual people, places and events in history.

Dr. Terry Portis, the director of the Center on Aging at Anne Arundel Community College, provides more information at (<http://tinyurl.com/4-podcasts>).

Getting Ready to Sell Your House?

More tips to help with a quick sale...

The first impression is the only impression: No matter how good the interior of your home looks, buyers have already judged your home before they walk through the door. You never have a second chance to make a first impression. It's important to make people feel warm, welcome and safe as they approach the house. Spruce up your home's exterior with inexpensive shrubs and brightly-colored flowers. You can typically get a 100-percent return on the money you put into your home's curb appeal. Entryways are also important. You use it as a utility space for your coat and keys. But, when you're selling, make it welcoming by adding a small bench with a vase of fresh-cut flowers or even some cookies.



REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER DEATHS

James Cain
 Vivian Gomba
 Jeanne McGinnis
 April Mitas
 Herbert Newcomb, Jr.
 Rose Rausch
 Carlotta Robinslon
 Peggy Sange
 Delores Williams

FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Pam Collins - husband, father
 Marjorie Johnson - husband
 Jane McKain - husband
 Steven Mitas - wife
 Linda Symes - mother
 Laurie Ullery - husband
 Arlene Wells - husband

ANNIVERSARIES

January 29 Sandra & Charles Dewling (51 years)
February 27 Patty and Ed Johnson
March 18 Rosalie & Charles Burcaw
 28 Joanne & Fritz Corey (61 years)

GET WELL

John Fleming
 Lou Kamm
 Kathy Laurantzen
 Wayne Shipley
 Ione Williams

EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

January 2 Jeanne Hartge
 Frances Middleton (96)
 Margie Williams
 19 Bobbye Kudzma (94)
February 9 Martha Clarke
March 5 Lillian Jackson
 7 Helen Baugh (94)
 17 Doris Phibbons (94)
 20 Margaret Bevan (101)
 24 Mary Graham (96)
 Theresa Stripling (92)
 28 Katherine Harkness (98)
 31 Edna McClelland (94)



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

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at mgbw16@gmail.com/ 410 401-0172

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Nina Griffith at bear1134@aol.com/ 443 304-2266

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at wwdsrogers@verizon.net/ 410 647-7585

In Emergency Medical Situations

If you or your doctor believe that you need urgent care, but your health plan does not agree, you should call the Maryland Insurance Administration's toll-free number at 800-492-6116. That agency will render a decision within 24 hours and, under certain circumstances, can order a private plan to pay for the treatment.



NEWS FROM TRIPS/TOURS

Based on your input from the survey printed in the October *AARSPA Informer*, we were able to plan our trips for the next two years.

2017

Spring Monticello and lunch at Michie Tavern
Fall 9/11 Memorial with a box lunch
Christmas Yuletide at Winterthur with lunch at the Hotel Dupont

2018

Spring TBD
Fall National Museum of African American History with lunch at Saints Paradise Cafeteria
Christmas Miracle of Christmas and lunch at Bird in Hand

We thank you for your suggestions for future trips and will take them under consideration. We hope you will join us and enjoy the fellowship of our AARSPA family.

From the Membership Chair

The membership year in MRSPA and AARSPA runs from July 1 to June 30 - like the fiscal year at AACPS. Membership dues first notices are mailed about 90 days prior to July 1 to allow for MRSPA and Local processing. If the dues are not paid, three more notices are mailed with a final notification letter that the membership will be dropped around November 1. Many members are not aware of this timing and pay their dues on the anniversary date of their first joining MRSPA - understandably. However, this necessitates postage for extra notices every year to a rather large number of members. Imagine billing 15,000 members individually on their membership anniversary dates. This is why MRSPA encourages automatic deduction as a means of payment. It eliminates the need for notices and the member knows the dues are paid when their payroll statement is received from AACPS. Automatic deduction is not available to **Local Only** memberships. MRSPA and AARSPA understand that some prefer to pay by check and, by all means, that is certainly their choice. I have enjoyed the automatic deduction process for 17 years without a hitch and I know that it can be stopped by simply writing a note to MRSPA requesting that action.

VOICES IN MELODY HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES



The AARSPA Chorus, Voices in Melody, presented their holiday program at six Anne Arundel County Senior Centers as well as at Atria Manresa and Future Care Arnold this past holiday season.

WELCOME

New Members 10/1/16 - 12/25/16

Barbara L. Christensen
 Jean Christie
 Joanne Christofel
 Karen J. Lanham
 Evelyn Y. Lisowsky
 Barbara Schwartz Layne
 Sally McGowan
 Kathleen Panagopulos

Beverly Saunders
 Peggy L. Smith
 Gerald L. Snyder
 Johanna S. Snyder
 Linda R. Tuck
 Joyce E. Witten
 William E. Yakaitis

FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER



This year's annual Florida event will be held in Kissimmee, Florida on March 9 and 10, 2017. Debbie and Bryan Groff have graciously opened their house for socialization on Thursday, March 9 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and create some new ones. Then, our general meeting and luncheon will be held at Eagle Creek Golf Course between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017. The choices of entrées are listed below, so please carefully indicate the preference for each guest. Directions to both sites along with some lodging information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. **Reservations must be received no later than Friday, February 17, 2017. Please make your check payable to AARSPA.**



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

The dinner at **Eagle Creek** will consist of BBQ Chicken Flatbread (grilled chicken, BBQ sauce, cheddar and caramelized onion) **OR** the Belfry Burger (angus beef, lettuce, tomato, onion on a brioche bun) **OR** a Catch of the Day Wrap (catch of the day, spinach, mango salsa, honey lime dressing). Each entrée will include a fresh fruit cup, a house salad with zinfandel vinaigrette dressing, a non-alcoholic beverage and chef's selection of dessert. The cost of the meal will be \$35.00. Also included is a 5x7 personal photograph of each person/couple attending the event taken by AARSPA photographer John Hammond. The photograph will be mailed directly to you at the address given above.

Guest's Name	BBQ Chicken	Belfry Burger	Catch of the Day	
_____	_____	_____	_____	@ \$35 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	@ \$35 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	@ \$35 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	@ \$35 = _____

Make checks payable to AARSPA. Total amount due: _____

Even if you are not able to attend the luncheon on March 10, you are welcome to join us at the Groff's on March 9.
 I/we plan to be at the Groff's house for the social on Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. There will be _____ person/persons attending this event. (This count helps with determining the amount of heavy hors d'oeuvres to prepare.)

All reservations and payments are due **no later than February 17, 2017.**



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

November 16 , 2016 General Membership Meeting



President Fader welcomes **First Timers** Alberta Baker, Bill Yakaitis, Joanne Christofel, and Janet Brown



Monique Jackson, Deputy Superintendent for Student and School Support, AACPS



Assistant Principal Adam Sheinhorn welcomes AARSPA members to CAT-N



Jeanne Hawes, Emeritus Member Ethel Bohle, Jean Gates, and Carroll Mobley



John (Jack) Colleran



Bill Goodman, Human Resources AACPS



Millie Gardner, Remembrance/Sunshine Chair



Virginia Crespo, Legislative Chair



Pete Akerboom, Teacher, (L) with Baking and Pastry Students



Bruce Davis, Teacher, (R) with Culinary Arts Students



Chesapeake High School's "Evolving Acapella Singers" with teacher Michael Brisintine

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.

- February 9, 2017 Blue Dolphin Restaurant, Gambrills
(Snow date February 16, 2017)
- May 18, 2017 Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville



Other Dates

- January 25, 2017 USM Legislative Forum, Annapolis
- January 26, 2017 February AARSPA Informer Deadline
- March 9-10, 2017 Florida Get-Together, Kissimmee
- May 9, 2017 MRSPA Annual Meeting, Turf Valley

LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

January 30

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017

PLACE: Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar and Grill, 1166 Rt.3, South, Suite 201, Gambrills, MD 21054

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

A mixed salad with two dressings available on the table; entrée choices of crab cake, 14 oz. New York Strip Steak, or Chicken Marsala served with vegetable and mashed potato. Dessert choices will be strawberry shortcake or carrot cake. Coffee, tea, or soft drink will also be available.

COST: \$32.00 per person

Make checks payable to AARSPA and mail to:
 Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012

Should the weather be inclement, and if AACPS has a delayed opening or are closed, the luncheon will be moved to the "snowdate" of Thursday, February 16, 2017.

DIRECTIONS: From Annapolis: Take MD Rt. 50 to MD Rt. 424 and turn right at end of ramp. After you cross MD Rt. 3, make the first right into Princess Shopping Center. From Baltimore: Take Interstate 97 South to Rt. 3, South/Crofton. Go 5 traffic lights and bear right on MD Rt. 424/Conway Rd. Make the first right into Princess Shopping Center. From Washington: Take MD Rt. 50 East towards Annapolis. Take Exit 13b/ MD Rt. 3 North. Follow 4 traffic lights and make a left onto MD Rt. 424/Conway Rd. Make the first right into Princess Shopping Center. Park in the rear of the center and use the private entrance to the banquet hall. (Keep this portion for easy reference.)



LUNCH RESERVATION - Deadline January 30, 2017

Contact person: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Name (s) -Including contact person above Crab Cake NY Strip Chicken Shortcake Carrot 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 (age 90 or greater)



Legislative News

On November 19, 2016, several AARSPA members attended the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Workshop in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Theresa Lochte, trustee of the State Retirement and Pension Systems and Nancy Kopp, Maryland State Treasurer, reassured members that our retirement and pension funding is in a good fiscal position. Delegate Mark Chang (Dist 32 AACo) indicated that face-to-face conversations remain the best way to influence legislators. Also useful are phone calls and the use of emails and social media. MRSPA has identified some returning issues such as supplemental funding for the pension system. MRSPA's goal is to reach the 80% funding that is recognized as the standard minimum. Also expected to return are bills regarding tax deductions for seniors, health care and prescription costs, and tax refunds for the cost of long-term care policies. Virginia Crespo, MRSPA and AARSPA Legislative Chair, encouraged all members to keep informed on legislative actions by checking the MRSPA website regularly.

MRSPA Legislative Priorities 2017



PENSION PROTECTION

MRSPA seeks to protect defined benefit pensions. They contribute to the state economy and promote personal security. Full actuarial funding of the state system ensures sustainability of the fund and is in the best economic interest of all taxpayers.

HEALTH CARE

Local school systems provide health benefits/options for retirees. Full state funding of education contributes to their ability to do this.

SAFETY

Eliminating neglect and abuse assures safety and promotes independence for older adults. Effective state laws facilitate this, as do reliable communication options.

EDUCATION

MRSPA supports public education in all Maryland jurisdictions, including pre-school and lifelong learning options. State support for these programs is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry.

SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION FUNDING

Promised make-up contributions to the state pension system must be made as legislated. They are economically, legally, and morally important for all state taxpayers.

SECURE CHOICE RETIREMENT

MRSPA supports a secure retirement for all Marylanders. State assistance to achieve this goal is commendable and encouraged.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Phishing scams and identity theft are of great concern to retirees. MRSPA supports all legislation that provides protection from such criminal activities.

LONG TERM CARE

Legislation supporting long term care insurance encourages older adults to provide for their own care in advance. This benefits individuals, families, and the state.

QUALITY OF LIFE

MRSPA supports services for adults that allow those wishing to age in place to do so. This includes programs such as adult day care and meals on wheels.

United Seniors of Maryland

40th Anniversary
Legislative Forum
Jointly with AARP
January 25, 2017

Where: Miller Senate Office Building
11 Braden Street
Annapolis, Maryland

When: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register Now

\$15 admission includes Forum
Registration, USM Membership,
Continental Breakfast and Box Lunch

Payment

Make check out to UNITED SENIORS
OF MARYLAND and mail to:
Elizabeth Weglein
P.O. Box 1094
Sparks, MD 21152
(Include name, address, phone number,
EMAIL REQUIRED, Organization)

Contact Your Representatives

STATE: *Maryland General Assembly*

Mgaleg.maryland.gov
1-800-492-7122

FEDERAL: *U.S. House of Representatives*

www.house.gov
202-224-3121

U.S. SENATE

www.senate.gov
202-224-3121



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)*