

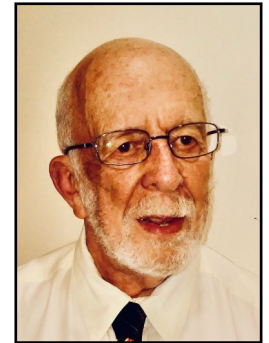


# I N F O R M E R

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
January 2025

Volume 50 Issue 3

## Co-Presidents Sharyn Doyle and Anthony Anzalone



The last time we “talked”, it was autumn. A chill was in the air; hot chocolate was in our cups; and “Autumn Leaves” was on YouTube. Well, the first day of winter has arrived. To be exact, it arrived on Saturday, December 21, at 4:21 a.m. And it is **COLD** outside. It is time to put marshmallows in your hot chocolate. But you can take heart...the days will only get brighter and longer from here on! Smile! Now for some noteworthy items:

down after 16 plus years. Since relinquishing her role as a worthy advisor, Catherine “Kate” Gilbert and Raymond Bibeault have stepped up. Best wishes to Betty; warm welcome to Kate and Ray.

1. AARSPA, through its Community Service Committee, organized by Phyllis Cherry, distributes toiletries, pet supplies, and other items to assisted-living facilities, shelters, adults-in-recovery homes, etc. Items of all kinds are needed. Bring them to the next luncheon.
2. Did you know that there are **25** Historic Sites in Anne Arundel County, **14** in Annapolis? Our Annearundel Free School Museum (FSM) is one of them. The FSM Chief Docent Extraordinaire Karlie Everett has been busy. Read her column on page 7.
3. The Trips Committee has been working with Gunther Charters & Tours lining up trip packages for us to consider this spring. See page 6 for more information!
4. Betty Coleman, a valued member of the Educator/Employee of the Month Selection Committee, has stepped

5. On a sad note, AARSPA lost a friend with the passing of Vincent Leggett. Vince was a former AACBOE President, authored two books exploring the marine lives of African-Americans on the Chesapeake Bay, and was a guest speaker at one of our Business Luncheons.
6. Are you a **Retired Music Teacher**? Do you know one? Mark Hildebrand, Annapolis Class of '82, wants your help with his “nonprofit, oral history project about music teachers and the impact they have had on our lives. This will be for The Annapolis History Wiki-a repository for stories and memories.” He already has received support from the Central Office (confirmed), and has contacted other groups (confirmed). Share info to Mark Hildebrand at:  
[www.mym-media.org](http://www.mym-media.org)  
or  
[annapolishistorywiki.org](http://annapolishistorywiki.org).
7. Do you have your 2025 calendar? Here is your first entry - “MARCH 12 & 13; Florida AARSPA Gathering in  
(Continued on page 2)



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(Co-Presidents, page 1)

Kissimmee; Debbie/Brian Goff (hosts); more information is included on page 4; Bob Kanach, organizer.

8. Each of our committees is looking for more members. Please contact us for more information.

Finally, we know changes are coming in 2025. Take a deep breath...**Stay Safe...Stay Alert...Stay Warm.** Read the rest of the *AARSPA Informer*, enjoy a mug of hot chocolate with marshmallows, and sing this Dean Martin favorite, "BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE" or this Irving Berlin pick, "BLUE SKIES".



As we start the new year, let's reflect on the support we have given in 2024. While I could list all the locations where we donated items, I would rather write about what our members really gave - a sense that someone cares. It is hard to imagine the power of a box of crayons to a child when his mom is struggling to pay rent, or the importance of a jar of hand lotion to the individual in assisted living who feels forgotten. Everything we do in AARSPA is about helping others, and while we can't see their smiles, the smiles are there nevertheless.

As you read this, I hope you will smile and feel the warmth it brings to your heart. Because of you, that same warmth was felt throughout Anne Arundel County.

-Phyllis Cherry  
Committee Chair

## News You Can Use

Why do scammers celebrate the new year?

Because as tax season begins, they can plan on thousands of new victims. Don't be one of them!

The IRS will not call you unless you have received a letter in advance notifying you that they may call about a specific concern such as a missing form.

The IRS will never demand immediate payment via debit cards, gift cards, or wire transfers. They will not threaten you with the police or offer to come to your house to pick up money.

They will never request ANY personal information over the phone.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice introduced the National Elder Fraud Hotline to address fraud targeting older citizens. Victims can call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-372-8311(833-FRAUD11).

For more information, go to the following websites:

Tax Scams and Consumer Alert  
Report Phishing and Online Scams  
The IRS Dirty Dozen: Annual list of scams affecting taxpayers  
Federal Trade Commission - How to avoid a government impersonation scam  
Security Summit partnership



# REMEMBRANCE

## MEMBER DEATHS

R. Allen Irvine  
 Joseph Martin  
 Janice Myers  
 Gerald L. Snyder  
 John J. Youngblood

## FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Judy Youngblood      Husband

## ANNIVERSARIES

January		
	6 Donna & Robin Williman	52
	22 Albert & Suzanne Kairys	53
	29 Sandra & Charles Dewling	58
February		
	27 Patty & Ed Johnson	29
March		
	26 Anne Marie & Chuck Dammeyer	53
	29 Mary & William Schneider	56

## EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

January		
	2 Margie Williams	100
	5 Gladys Brinkley	96
	19 Elaine Lebar	97
	22 Lauralee Whitmore	94
	25 Patricia Ann Gross	91
February		
	7 Shirley Mueller	95
	16 Albert Poyer	95
	17 Barbara Snyder	93
	23 Peggy Griswold	93
	26 Thomas Shipley	91
March		
	1 Joanne Corey	96
	4 Joan Hunter	92
	17 Dillard Harris	93
	17 Patricia White	93

Sorry, we missed your birthday celebrations in November:  
**Catherine Wilde** 97, **Lucy Travers** 90, **Barbara Ann Johnson** 93, and **Dorothy Brown** 91.

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

**Anniversaries and Congratulations**  
 Millie Gardner at [milliegardner65@gmail.com](mailto:milliegardner65@gmail.com) or 443-784-2190

**Deaths of AARSPA members and family members**  
 Linda Poole at [mip2118@yahoo.com](mailto:mip2118@yahoo.com) or 410-570-4020

**Illnesses and Accidents, etc.**  
 Dianne Rogers at [wwdsrogers@verizon.net](mailto:wwdsrogers@verizon.net) or 410-647-7585

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Cynthia A. Connatser  
 Edwin C. Copeland Jr.  
 Don Counts  
 Pamela Courson  
 Jacquelyn Curran  
 Nancy Davison  
 Linda Everett  
 Joseph Fritsch Jr.  
 Mary Beth Gormley  
 Pamela Hull  
 Heather Jones  
 Sarah Kittle  
 Laura Quick  
 Laura Reddish  
 Linda Simms  
 Lynne R. Spalding  
 Chris Truffer



# AARSPA IN FLORIDA

This year's annual AARSPA in Florida event will be held in Kissimmee, Florida on March 12 and 13, 2025. Debbie and Bryan Groff have again graciously opened their house for socialization on Wednesday, March 12 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and create some new ones.

by Debbie and Bryan. We will be able to select from the extensive lunch and early bird menu so we will not have to limit our selection to only three entrée items. Specific information and directions will be sent to you once we receive your completed reservation form below. There are numerous hotels in the area, but we will try to research some that we have used before for availability and prices.

Then, our general meeting and luncheon will be held at High Tide Harry's Restaurant that comes highly recommended

**Reservation forms must be received by Wednesday, February 26, 2025.**

CUT AND RETURN THE COMPLETED RESERVATION FORM BELOW



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional person/people in your party:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Even if you are not able to attend the luncheon on March 13, you are welcome to join us at the Groff's on March 12. In order to help determine how much refreshments to purchase, please indicate the number of people attending this event with you, including yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_ person/people will be attending the social at the Groff's on March 12.

Send your completed reservation form to:  
 Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012



# Out and About with AARSPA

## December 3 - "Joy to the World"



A huge "Thank you" to the Travel Committee for organizing a fabulous trip to the Lancaster area for a holiday celebration! After a yummy lunch at the Bird in Hand Restaurant, the group traveled to the American Music Theater for "Joy to the World", a wonderful program of holiday music and dancing. A drive through a light show in Hershey put the finishing touches on getting everyone ready for holiday festivities!



## October 20 - Alzheimer's Walk

AARSPA from the Heart walkers and fundraisers recently raised \$1520 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. The AARSPA team and members thank all who very generously contributed! Tillie Barckley, her daughter Toni, and her granddaughter Eryn walked at Rippling Woods Elementary; Deb Ahalt walked at Sandy Point Park. A beautiful day for a great cause!



## November 14, 2024 CAT-N

AARSPA's recent luncheon returned, after several years, to a favorite venue, the Center of Applied Technologies North. Members were very generous with donations for the Food Bank! **Voices in Melody Chorus** entertained. **Dr. Mark Bedell**, AACPS Superintendent and **Elizabeth Heist**, AACPS Teacher of the Year, were on hand to make this a wonderful experience!



Emeritus members **Ron Ruffo** and **Jeanne Hawes**



First time attendees **Mattie Procaccini**, **Sean Swanson**, and **Sur Zukauskas**





# Odyssey Cruise & Cherry Blossoms Washington D.C. Friday, April 4, 2025



Come aboard **Odyssey Cruises**, a unique boat designed to provide the ultimate viewing of Washington DC's sights, including Washington's iconic **Cherry Trees**. Savor a delicious **plated lunch**, served at your private table while relaxing in the elegant atmosphere offered aboard a true luxury vessel. Enjoy the pleasant combination of nautical breezes, attentive service, and monumental views. Also, for your entertainment and enjoyment, there will be a DJ on board providing music to dance to, or you can simply sit back and relax as you cruise along Washington's unique waterfront. Before arriving at Odyssey Cruises, an up and close **photo-stop at the Cherry Trees** will be made at the **Tidal Basin**. Do not miss this opportunity to view the nation's capital from an entirely new perspective!

### Lunch

Meal selections will be made from a menu at your private table.

You get all this for **\$145.00 per person**. This also includes transportation, all taxes, and tips, including the driver. **Your reservations for this trip must be received by Wednesday, January 22, 2025.**

### Itinerary

- 9:00 a.m. Depart the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road
- 10:30 a.m. Arrive Washington DC at Tidal Basin, Cherry Trees Photo-Stop
- 11:00 a.m. Arrive at Odyssey Cruises
- 11:15 a.m. Board Odyssey Cruise
- 12:00 p.m. Depart on Cherry Blossoms Lunch Cruise with DJ Music
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive back at Odyssey Cruises Dock
- 2:30 p.m. Depart Washington DC
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive at Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road



## Odyssey Cherry Blossoms Cruise - Lunch - Photo Stop at the Cherry Trees Reservations must be received by Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Send this reservation form and check made payable to **AARSPA** to: Bob Kanach  
512 Augusta Drive  
Arnold, MD 21012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell Phone (in case separated from group): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (for receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

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

# of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$145.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **AARSPA**

Other names in your party (if applicable).

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

## FROM THE FREE SCHOOL MUSEUM

The holidays are over! Are you now looking for something exciting and interesting to do? Consider visiting the Free School Museum (FSM). Although we won't begin our Open House season until April, you can still visit the FSM. Contact Karlie Everett ([karlieeverett@verizon.net](mailto:karlieeverett@verizon.net)) to arrange a time. Bring a friend, or two or more, with you.

We would like to recognize and thank Don Bailey for the many hours he has spent culling and organizing the files at the FSM. He has also tackled the chore of organizing the books in the attic that we do not have display space for on the first floor.

One of the items Don came across during his work was an oversized scrapbook about George Washington. It looks like it was created by students, probably under the direction of a teacher. The scrapbook is dedicated to "Principal - Mrs. J. Bourke." We would like to know more about this person and the time period she served as principal. If you have any information, please contact Karlie Everett or Don Bailey.

Finally, a group of docents will meet at the FSM on January 16, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Some of the things we will discuss are special events at our five Open Houses in 2025, Maryland Day March 23, 2025, and how we will celebrate America's 250th. All are welcome to participate and share their ideas!



## Scholarship Update!

To our generous donors, thank you for enabling our scholars to realize they will have the power to ignite the flames of curiosity and knowledge in every student's heart. Your continued support is key to our success. Thank you!

### In Honor of...

Malachi Brown (Happy Birthday!)

### In Memory of...

Kathleen Buinickas

John D. Capogna

Jay D. Catlin

Joseph Martin

Beverly Ann Reynolds (Birthday Memory)

Nancy Underhill

John Youngblood



### 2024 Scholarship Recipient

Connor Raeke, graduate of Old Mill High School, has completed three classes at Anne Arundel Community College. He enthusiastically completed Foundations of Reading and Language Arts, Introduction to Physical Science and Math Fundamentals, receiving A's. He is working two jobs, one of which is being a substitute teacher. Conner is currently awaiting his transfer to Towson University to be finalized.

Check out the following pages:


**Anne Arundel Retired School  
Personnel Association  
(AARSPA)**

**Maryland Retired School  
Personnel Association  
(MRSPA)**



**National Retired Teachers  
Association (NRTA)**

**Anne Arundel County Public  
Schools  
(AACPS)**

MEETING DATES	DATES TO REMEMBER	OTHER DATES
<p><b>Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.</b></p> <p>April 10, 2025 MRSPA Office Odenton</p> <p>June 12, 2025 Free School</p> <p>July 10, 2025 Room 2A, AACPS</p>		<p>January 17, 2025 Deadline for February AARSPA Informer</p> <p>January 28, 2025 MRSPA Legislative Workshop Virtual</p> <p>March 12-13, 2025 Florida Get Together Kissimmee, FL</p> <p>April 11, 2025 AARSPA on the Eastern Shore Ocean Pines Yacht Club</p> <p>May 6, 2025 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting Turf Valley Resort</p>
<p><b>General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.</b></p> <p>February 13, 2025 Renditions Golf Course Davidsonville</p> <p>May 8, 2025 Two Rivers Steak and Fish House Pasadena</p>		

**It's MRSPA Foundation Raffle Time!**

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter and through local association newsletters using the form below. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets and send your tickets stubs to you in the US Mail when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2025 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

**Entering the drawing is fun and easy!**

1. Make your check payable to **MRSPA Foundation**.
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation** on the FOR line.
3. Date and **sign** your check.
4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 21, 2025**.

**Will you send a donation today?**

**Receipts and ticket stubs will be sent via US Mail.**



**MRSPA Foundation**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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


Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

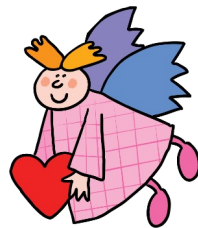


Donations accepted for:

- Animal shelter
- Homeless shelter
- Sarah's House - paper supplies



# General Meeting and Luncheon Renditions Golf Course Thursday, February 13, 2025



The next AARSPA general meeting and luncheon will be held at Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035 on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. **All reservation must be received by Monday, January 27, 2025, and after this date we cannot accept any reservations, and we will not be able to give any refunds.** Please remember we cannot accept walk-ins.

The meal choices are:

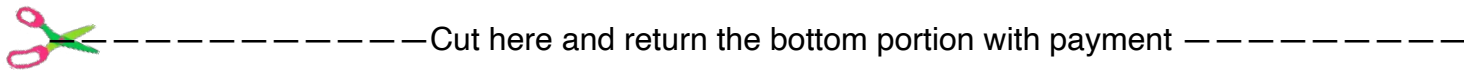
- Chicken parmesan with mashed potatoes and a vegetable
- Sliced roast beef with sherry mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes and a vegetable
- Salmon with mashed potatoes and a vegetable

Each entrée is served with a mixed green luncheon salad and an ice cream sundae for dessert. Coffee, sweet tea and iced water will be served with the meal.

**NOTE:** If AACPS schools are closed for students on February 13, 2025 this event will be moved to Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Cost: \$39.50 per person (**please make checks payable to AARSPA**).

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



Reservations **must be received** no later than Monday, January 27, 2025.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name	Chicken Parmesan or Roast Beef or Salmon			
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$39.50 _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$39.50 _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$39.50 _____
				Total due: _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA general meeting and luncheon.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you are an **Emeritus Member** (age 90 or greater). Please remember your meal is **free of charge**.

**Send your completed reservation form and check to:  
Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012**



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:  
 Education Foundation of AACPS

**Mail checks to:**

Matilda Barckley  
 8238 Great Bend Road  
 Glen Burnie, MD 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*