



# INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
February 2020

Volume 45 Issue 4

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Happy Valentine's Day! As the winter days in Maryland are colder, consider visiting a warmer climate. The annual Florida Get-Together is scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2020, in St. Cloud, Florida. The Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA) would like to thank Arlene and Ron Derflinger in advance for hosting the cocktail hour and arranging space for the membership meeting and luncheon.

In mid-January, AARSPA was represented at the United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum. Our representatives listened to several state leaders who shared information about issues that are priorities for our membership.

The AARSPA Legislative Workshop/ Reception is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lowe House Office Building. Our leadership and delegates will meet with our legislators and their aides to discuss current issues that may impact our membership. On March 5, 2020, the president and our legislative committee chairperson will attend the Maryland School Retired Personnel Association (MRSPA) Lobby Day.

Our February meeting/luncheon at the Blue Dolphin will include greetings from the MRSPA Executive Director and President. MRSPA works tirelessly to protect retirement and pension benefits, and offers a number of excellent legal and consumer services. The other informative programs on the agenda include the AARP Volunteer Summit and the Annapolis/ Anne Arundel Financial Education Coalition.

The president and chairperson will encourage potential Anne Arundel County Public Schools retiring personnel to join our organization at the Pre-Retirement Seminar on March 28 at the Parham Building.

If you are not receiving an electronic copy of the *AARSPA Informer*, please consider email instead of a hard copy in the mail. Volunteers, led by Leslie Schell and Carol Kirby, provide two hours of service collating and sending out each issue of the *AARSPA Informer* to members.

There is much untapped potential in our membership. Won't you consider serving on the



executive board or various committees to keep the work of this worth-while organization moving forward?



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)**



# REMEMBRANCE

## MEMBER DEATHS

Patricia Ericson  
Rachel Finan  
Harry Hendrickson  
Leona Munoz

## FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Gloria Hutchins daughter  
Judy Lee husband  
JoEllen Staicer mother  
Evelyn Svoboda husband

## GET WELL/THINKING OF YOU

Don Buchanan  
Laura Buchanan  
Jim Preston  
Terry Zablonki

## ANNIVERSARIES

### March

28 Joanne & Fritz Corey 63 yrs.  
29 Mary & William Schneider 51 yrs

## EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

### March

1 Joanne Corey **91**  
5 Lillian Jackson **95**  
7 Helen Baugh **97**  
17 Doris Phibbons **97**  
22 Betty Jane Mitchell **90**  
31 Edna McClelland **97**

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

### Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at [mgbw16@gmail.com](mailto:mgbw16@gmail.com) or 443-784-2190

### Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Nina Griffith at [bear1134@aol.com](mailto:bear1134@aol.com) or 443 304-2266

### Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Linda Poole at [mlp2118@yahoo.com](mailto:mlp2118@yahoo.com) or 410-570-4020

# FREE SCHOOL NEWS

## Celebrate Maryland Day Weekend at the Annearrundell County Free School Museum



While Maryland Day is Wednesday, March 25, 2020, the founding of our state will be celebrated all throughout the previous weekend, March 20-22, 2020. With support from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, a variety of activities and events will take place at many historic sites and museums in Anne Arundel County. The Annearrundell County Free School Museum will participate in this county-wide celebration on Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

A schoolmaster and a school marm will welcome guests to this one-room school house, most likely the only surviving structure as the result of the Maryland Free School Act of 1723. Guests will learn about the history of education in Maryland and see examples of learning tools used in the 1700's and 1800's. Guests will see several artifacts on display from a 1979 archeological dig as well as a variety of toys from the colonial era.

If you are not able to attend this event, remember the Free School Museum is open on the second Saturday and second Sunday of April, May, June, July and August. Tours for school-aged children and adults can also be arranged by appointment. Contact Karlie Everett (410-268-8656 or [karlieeverett@verizon.net](mailto:karlieeverett@verizon.net)). All visitations to the Free School Museum are free.



# Maryland Free Schools 1723

In 1723 the Colonial Assembly established "Free Schools" in the then twelve existing counties. According to the "Maryland County Formation Years," in 1707 the twelve existing counties were Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, and Somerset. The next listing for Maryland County Formation is documented as occurring in 1727. The change recorded at that time was that Anne Arundel gained from Baltimore.

A "History of Education in Maryland" was written by Bernard Christian Steiner in 1894. On page 42 of this book, Steiner begins writing about what happened to the schools established during this early period. He writes:

St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's became Charlotte Hall in 1774

Calvert merged into Lower Marlborough Academy in 1778

Kent became Washington College in 1782

Talbot merged into Washington College in 1782

Cecil was given to trustees of the poor in 1787

Dorchester was given to trustees of the poor in 1788

Somerset and Worcester merged into the Eden School 1770

Anne Arundel continued under the Act of 1723 and 1795

Baltimore [Co.] continued in 1822 but diverted to poor children.

While Steiner includes Worcester which is not listed as a county in 1707 or 1727, he omits Queen Anne's which is listed as a county in 1707. The "Maryland Historical Magazine" mentions the First Free School in Queen Anne's County as being on one hundred acres situated on the south side of the main road that leads from Queenstown to Chester Mills.

## Calling for Volunteers!

The spring Free School cleaning will take place on **Saturday, March 14**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come out and help prepare the building for Maryland Day visitors!



"Close Before You Doze" is more than just a slogan. Closing doors in your home prevents fire from spreading, decreases smoke damage and helps save lives - especially when you and your family are sleeping. Rooms with closed doors during a fire typically have:



- More survivable temperatures around 100 degrees (compared to an open-door room's temperature that can reach 1,000 degrees)
- Livable oxygen levels
- Less toxic carbon monoxide levels

The barrier door protects whatever is behind the door.

## Navy Blue Angels Air Show Cruise on Demonstration Day and Buffet Lunch at the USNA Officers Club Wednesday, May 20, 2020



Come join AARSPA in a celebration of the United States Naval Academy Commencement Week on board the *Harbor Queen* for a special Navy Blue Angels air show cruise! This cruise will take you out on the Annapolis Harbor for the best seats in town to enjoy the Blue Angels Air Show. There is no better way to see this elite flight demonstration squadron. Formed in 1946 the Blue Angels is the second oldest formal flying aerobatic team in the world after the French Patrouille de France formed in 1931.

Before our cruise, enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at the United States Naval Academy Officers Club located on the Naval Academy grounds. Do not miss this opportunity to enjoy a spectacular and memorable Blue Angels air show cruise on the water at the Annapolis Harbor! **All of this for \$140.00 per person and includes transportation, a buffet lunch, the Blue Angels Air Show Cruise "Practice Day", all taxes and tips including the driver and Gunther Tour Escort.**

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- **A valid Government Photo ID is required for this tour.**
- **In the event of inclement weather and the air show is cancelled, the *Harbor Queen* will still provide a narrated sightseeing cruise and there will be a partial refund.**
- **We are limited to 52 passengers so sign up will be on a first come, first served basis.**
- **All people attending must ride in on the bus for security purposes. There will be no exceptions.**

### Itinerary:

9:45 a. m. Depart the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road  
 10:15 a. m. Arrive Annapolis, MD at the State Hours Bus Kiosk to meet the Step-on Guide  
 10:25 a. m. Arrive at USNA Gate#3 (Right outside the USNA) **NOTE: The Group Leader will walk the guests ½ block to the Officers Club**  
 11:00 a. m. Buffet Lunch  
 12:30 p. m. Depart the USNA Gate#3 (Right outside the USNA)  
 12:45 p. m. Arrive at Watermark Cruises Susan Campbell Park at Annapolis City Dock  
 1:00 p. m. Board the *Harbor Queen*  
 1:15 p. m. Depart on the Navy Blue Angels Air Show Cruise  
 3:15 p. m. Arrive back at the WaterMark Cruises Dock  
 3:30 p. m. Depart Annapolis, MD **Note: Extra time has been built in for traffic conditions**  
 4:45 p. m. Arrive at the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road



### Deadline – Wednesday, April 8, 2020

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

Primary Contact Person:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (for emergency): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email address (for receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

# of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$140.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to AARSPA

Others in your party (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame 2019 Inductees



**Mildred "Millie" Gardner** contacted the Anne Arundel County Police Department to offer her services after her retirement from the Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Millie was first assigned to the Public Information Office to assist with answering telephone calls and administrative duties and later, to the Northern District Station, to answer and direct citizens' calls to the appropriate departments and to assist the District secretary with filing and organizing paper work.

Millie's desire to stay connected to her profession led her to become a member of the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association, chairing the Remembrance Committee.

Her commitment to education is evident through her active participation in Alpha Delta Kappa, an international association of outstanding educators. She is past president and continues to represent the Maryland chapter at conferences and conventions

She serves as a greeter at her church, Faith Baptist, where she also teaches the younger children in religion classes.



**Deborah Ahalt** learned from her mother what serving others means. Following her example, she became involved with SERV International, tagging and organizing Fair Trade handicraft items for shipment and sale. The profits from this activity aids artisans and farmers from disadvantaged communities around the world.

After retiring from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Deborah became a member of AARSPA. Here she used her skills to create a Facebook page to advertise the organization. She is also a member of the Community Service Committee, helping to collect and deliver supplies to the animal control center as well as school supplies and clothing items to schools with a high population of disadvantaged students.

One of Deborah's biggest joys is her work with puppies to be trained as service companions for veterans. She cleans their cages, but she especially enjoys helping the puppies socialize through play.



**Virginia Crespo** joined AARSPA after 32 years of teaching Government in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. She provided knowledge, information and resources for issues such as retirement benefits, pharmacy and health, pension accounts and other legislative issues pending before the Maryland General Assembly.

Virginia also serves as Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Society. She volunteers with the United Seniors of Maryland (USM) and is a member of the United States Lighthouse Society (Chesapeake Chapter) serving as a tour guide. She also works with the preservation crew at Thomas Point Lighthouse. From January to April, Virginia is a regular at the State Capital in Annapolis where she meets with legislators about issues such as protecting health more and pensions for retired school personnel.

Virginia is an active Communicant, Lector, and Sacristan at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Severn.

## MEETING DATES

### Executive Board Meetings

April 8, 2020	Center 2A (10:00 - 12:00 )
June 11, 2020	Free School (10:00 - 12:00)
July 9, 2020	Center 2A (10:00 - 12:00)

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

February 13, 2020	Blue Dolphin Restaurant, Crofton
May 14, 2020	Renditions, Crofton



## OTHER DATES

March 18-19, 2020	Florida Gathering, St. Cloud, FL
March 28, 2020	Pre-Retirement Seminar, BOE, Annapolis
April 23, 2020	Brian Boru Scholarship Fundraiser, Severna Park
May 13, 2020	MRSPA Annual Business Meeting Martin's Camelot, Upper Marlboro
May 20, 2020	Navy Blue Angels Air Show Cruise, Annapolis
June 16, 2020	Killarney House Scholarship Fundraiser, Davidsonville

## AARSPA SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The AARSPA Scholarship Committee would like to thank you for **PAYING IT FORWARD** with your generous donations. A previous scholarship recipient responded. "I can't express my gratitude enough times to AARSPA for helping me to realize and reach my professional goals!" An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

## The Census is Coming

### What you need to know:

- Check your mail beginning March 2020 for your invitation to complete the Census online.
- All households will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.
- You should be counted at your usual residence (where you sleep most of the time).

### The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

- How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020.
- Whether the home is owned or rented.
- About the age of each person in your home.
- About the sex of each person in your home.
- About whether a person in your home is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.
- About the relationship of each person in your home.

### During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask you for:

- Your Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank or credit card account





### Little Library Project

The Little Free Libraries sponsored by AARSPA are coming! CAT-N is nearing construction completion of these little gems!

To stock the Libraries, we will need a minimum of 30 books in each. If you, or a loved one, have children's and young adult books that are gently used and you no longer need, please bring them to our next luncheon. There will be a box set up for you to deposit them. If you need the books picked up from your home, send Zetta Hart an email ([dollyzee@verizon.net](mailto:dollyzee@verizon.net)) to let her know. She will set up a time with you to pick them up.

AARSPA Little Free Libraries will help promote literacy in neighborhoods in Anne Arundel County.



Friend of Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control, Chris Weinstein, gratefully accepted AARSPA's contributions from Deb Ahalt.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership in any organization represents fluctuation as the numbers continue to change through new members, rejoining members, and death of members. As of December, membership records from the state indicated that combined MRSPA/AARSPA membership stood at 1570 and AARSPA only membership at about 190. These numbers will change as each week new information comes to the committee. Many thanks to all members for your support in "talking up" AARSPA! A special shout out to the volunteers who assist with the mailing of the *AARSPA Informer* where laughter abounds, and fellowship grows.



### The torch is passed!

After over twenty years heading up the AARSPA Membership Committee, Carol Kirby has turned over the Chairmanship to Leslie Schall who will be assisted by Marge Smith. In addition to maintaining all AARSPA membership records, the Committee organizes the labeling of the *AARSPA Informer* for mailing. Leslie also serves on the MRSPA Membership Committee, as did Carol. Many thanks to Carol for her many years of service to AARSPA and MRSPA.



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



## Scholarship Fund Donation

*Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contributions 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 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 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**  
**barckley@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: 420-222-5370). 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.