

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.



WWW.MCPSRETIRES.ORG
MCPSRA MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 4367
ROCKVILLE, MD 20849-4367

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DECEMBER 2009

MCPSRA PRESENTS AT MRSPA OCEAN CITY CONVENTION

Joan Donovan and Ken Muir, MCPSRA Board members, made a “break-out” session presentation at the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Convention in Ocean City, September 9. The presentation highlighted for members from other counties, two activities that have had a real pay-off for MCPSRA.

Ken told of the many benefits that have resulted from his decision, as newly-elected MCPSRA president in 2003, to meet with Superintendent Jerry Weast and ask how the Association could help MCPS and its students. Weast suggested three projects, one of which is the “Books and Toolkits” activity for which the Association has received national acclaim. Other outcomes include a closer relationship with many MCPS units, resulting in some cost-savings for the Association and good entrée with a number of MCPS staff.

Joan shared how the Toolkits, Books and Backpacks Project has grown over the last five years. She distributed materials that she has developed and used over time so that other county associations throughout the state—who may want to begin a similar project—won’t have to “re-invent the wheel.”

Each toolkit consists of a plastic shoebox containing a variety of school supplies. They are delivered to schools and in-service training sessions for parents are offered to help them learn how to use the items and lesson plans with their children. New and gently used books are distributed to each summer school site to be given to students at summer’s end. Backpacks of school supplies and books are assembled and given to each homeless child enrolled in the Title 1 summer school program

Joan reported on our close relationship with the MCPS Materials Management unit (formerly the Supply Division) that has been invaluable in securing toolkit materials at the lowest cost, as well as providing warehouse space to assemble the toolkits and distributing them to the 30 school sites each summer. She also included fundraising tips that helped raise more than \$25,000 for this past summer’s Books and Toolkits and Backpacks project that benefited nearly 3,500 Title I summer school students.

Ken Muir, Treasurer



Some of the toolkits ready for delivery to schools.



Poster that Joan prepared for the presentation .

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Ken Huff and Joy Schwab pictured at their induction into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.



GOLF IN THE FALL

MCPSRA LUNCHEON – October 29, 2009

See details on pages 6 and 15 of this newsletter.

Please plan to attend this year's luncheons:

October 29, 2009

February 25, 2010

April 22, 2010

June 17, 2010



GOLF IN THE FALL

Mark your calendars today. The 19th Annual MCPSRA Golf Outing will be held on Friday, October 10, 2009, (rain date is October 16, 2008) at the Laytonsville Golf Course, Laytonsville, MD. Further details and registration appear on page 5 of this newsletter.

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Message from President Gerald Johnson

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Scholarship.....		
MRSPA Membership.....	Elizabeth P. Doyle.....	301-947-0733
Recruitment Chair.....	edoyle3233@aol.com	

Fun-Business-Extension

It's always good to see old and new friends and to have fun discussing happy MCPS memories! All of us have contributed to our outstanding student progress in life. Our October 'Luncheon' was just wonderful. One always, unexpectedly, greets a friend[s] who you just can't have enough time to gossip with about how things have changed and 'what you're enjoying now' as a result of the change. A feeling of friendliness filled the room and the food was great!

Business was conducted allowing for input from our members who were present. The presentation from our guest speaker, Susan K. Morris, re: Wills and related processes was quite informative.

Our programs and business sessions are very helpful. We invite you to let us know of areas you would like to know more about. Your input is very helpful to MCPSRA's planning committee. Vice President, Joy G. Schwab, is the person to contact.

Thank you for turnout of over 100 members. We look forward to your being with all of us again on February 25, 2010, at the same Golden Bull!

IN MEMORIAM ***December 2009***

Jewel Green
Paul Henry
Anna V. Ransom
Heiny W. Shipping
Dorothy West
Ester M. Williams
Rita Winterbourne

Compiled by Joan Donovan
November 2009

Please inform Membership Chair Juliette Trevino of changes in your name, address or phone number by mailing it to MCPSRA, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849-4367 or by e-mail at jgtrevino@comcast.net.

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Publishing Services

NEW MEMBERS

Kathy-Anne Allnutt
 Ilma Cookie Backelman
 Ruth M. Berlin
 Kathleen Boivin
 Meta W. Calavetinos
 Sarah A. Cario
 Yung Yi Chen
 Robert J. Davis
 Linda J. Dembnicki
 Carol DiPace
 Thomas W. Dorsey
 Darlene D. Williams Ellison
 Demetra Fellows
 Mary K. Gardner

Barbara D. Haines
 Selma Hall
 Virginia Hampton
 Peggy Lee Harris
 Robert S. Haugh
 Badonna R. Hurowitz
 Mindy MJ J. Jaffee
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 HedyLajo Kilgore
 Melanie Landau
 Ivy Leichman
 Erica Lodish
 Alice Lynn McKenzie
 Sharon S. Meyers
 Mickey A. Mitchell

Nancy J. Novak
 James Padams
 Jean C. Peters
 Diane Rosenfeld
 Rosalie Sanchez
 Debra Schwartz
 Janice Smetanick
 Robert C. Stanfill
 Geraldine Stine
 Susan Strachman
 Rosemary Suckow
 Royal A. Walker
 Suzanne Waters
 Rosemary F. Webster
 Pearl H.C. Liang Wei

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

MRSPA Membership Chair: Betsy Doyle

MCPSRA Membership Chair: Juliette Trevino

Believe: Members Make the Difference

This is the slogan for the coming year for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). MRSPA is the state "watchdog" of our pension and retirement funds as well as of our health-care coverage. It is up to all of us to help recruit new members...the more members we have the more attention and support we have in Annapolis. The goal for MRSPA is to have 15,000 members by March 1, 2010. This means a 7% gain for each local. For MCPSRA this means at least 189 new members. Where do we get these new members? We get them from you, our retirees, of course!! I as chairperson of the state membership committee, challenge all of you to recruit and to sign up just one (1) new member. Please talk to all of your retiree friends and encourage them to sign up if they are not already members.

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!

=====CUT HERE=====

COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
 Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association
 Application for Membership**



Name _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ Birthdate _____
 Address _____ Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____ Email _____

Please sign authorization for dues deduction (see below) **OR** make check payable to MCPSRA.

NOTE	Mail to: MRSPA	MRSPA DUES	\$25.00
ADDRESS	8379 Piney Orchard Parkway	Local Dues	<u>10.00</u>
	Odenton, MD 21113	Total	\$35.00

I hereby authorize the Retirement and Pension System of the State of Maryland to deduct annual membership dues for the MRSPA and the MCPSRA from one of my retirement checks each membership year.

I understand that my social security number is required if I wish to become a dues deduction member.

SSN _____

This authorization will remain effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

Signature _____ Date _____



Hospice Caring Is Here To Help.

Since 1989, Hospice Caring has been providing, **at no charge**, an array of support service to those dealing with life-limiting illnesses and grief. Whether it's offering a safe place for adults and children to talk about their experiences or providing in-home practical and emotional care to terminally ill patients and their families. All of Hospice Caring's programs and services are provided by trained volunteers. Hospice Caring is a light for people in the darkest times of their lives.

Our Services Include:

Patient and Family Support

Adult Bereavement Support

Good Grief Clubs

(for children coping with the loss of a loved one)

Camp Caring

(weekend bereavement camp for children coping with the loss of a loved one)

For more information on how we can help please call 301-869-HOPE (4673)

Hospice Caring is made possible by the generous support of volunteers, individual and corporate donors, and foundation contributions. To find out how you can help call 301-869-HOPE (4673) or visit our website www.hospicecaring.org.



Hospice Caring, Inc., 518 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2325

THE BEST EXERCISE FOR THE HEART

Each of us, if asked to name individuals in our lives that have left a lasting impression on us or have inspired us to become the person we are today, would give it much thought and could come up with a list that would warm the heart. The most difficult part of that task would be narrowing it down to a tidy little list. Would your list consist of your parents, a teacher, a close friend, a stranger even? No such list should ever be definitive, tidy, or short for that matter but one that continues to grow.

Here are a few from my list, all connected by a common thread, who have inspired me as well as many others all over the world. Danny Kaye and Audrey Hepburn, after highly successful careers in the motion picture industry, dedicated many years to the service of impoverished children worldwide as official ambassadors of UNICEF. Ms. Hepburn once said, "Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm. . . . As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others. Somewhere out there is a unique place for you to help others – a unique life for you to fill." Danny Kaye, through his creative genius with words, stated it slightly differently: "Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint on it you can." Arthur Ashe is another one on my list. Following a remarkable career as a professional tennis player, Arthur built a sports complex and program to benefit needy children in the hopes of inspiring and developing talents in boys and girls that otherwise would have gone untapped. His words, "From what we get we can make a living. What we give, however, makes a life," should inspire us all. And then there is Mother Teresa whose mere image of helping the poorest of poor warms our hearts and moves so many others to service. She had a very special way of putting everything into perspective when she said, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." By now it is quite evident that the common thread that ties all of these remarkable individuals together is their commitment to serve others, especially children. All of you as former public school personnel, who dedicated your career to the benefit of children, could be added to this list. And now that you are retired, your help is needed to serve the neediest of our youth in another way, through our association's **Toolkits, Books, and Backpacks Project**.

My parents taught me that I could do anything I wanted and I have always believed it to be true. They often said, "Add a clear idea of what inspires you, dedicate your energies to its pursuit, and there is no knowing what you can achieve, particularly if others are inspired by your dream and offer their help." When I first learned of this project four years ago, I was truly inspired and knew that it was here that I wanted to dedicate my energies. My dream has been and continues to be that this remarkable project, that has benefited thousands of needy Title I children here in Montgomery County, will not only survive but will thrive and grow for many years to come. Many of you share this same dream and have generously donated your time, talents, and money over the years. There would be no knowing what good we could do for the neediest of Montgomery County's youth if each of the 2700 members of our association offered to help by sending in a donation. PLEASE fill out the form below and mail it with your **tax – deductible** contribution to Mrs. Joan Donovan, Special Projects Committee Co-Chair. Remember, there is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up, especially needy children.

Joan Donovan, MCPSRA Projects

-----detach here-----

MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation**, with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ toolkits at \$10 per kit. Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Optional: In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

**FRANK SWEENEY
WINNER OF 2009 FALL GOLF OUTING**

Under blue skies and a bright warm sun with tropical breezes and mid-eighties temperatures, 23 members and guests participated in the 19th Annual MCPSRA Golf Outing at the Laytonsville Golf course on Friday, October 9, 2009. Frank Sweeney, a former winner, edged out Tom McAuliffe, another former winner, to become the 2009 champion with a low gross score of 80. Harry Golding won low net honors with a score of 70.

Other prize winners included the following golfers:

- 2nd low net Jerry Lea
- 3rd low net Tom McAuliffe
- Closet to #3 pin Rob Ahlberg,
 guest of Dick Ahlberg
- Closet to #5 pin Tom McAuliffe
- Longest drive Paul Scott
- High grass Fred Evans

Once again, our thanks go out to Bruce McKay and Harvey Strine for their excellent handling of the score sheet and for determining the Callaway handicap scores. Others who contributed greatly to the success of this year's outing included the following:

- Tom Hickman and MCTFCU for providing umbrellas for each participant
- Jack Hill and the Hendershot Financial Group for providing two \$50 cards
- John Barrett, Jr. for providing golf balls and golf-related books
- Dean Greer, Laytonsville Golf course head PGA professionals and Mike Kenny, Needwood Golf Course head PGA professional, for providing gift certificates to use at their respective courses.

Special thanks go to Jane Ahlberg, Jerry Johnson and Bruce McKay for special contributions to the MCPSRA Scholarship fund that was enriched by \$630.00.

Richard Ahlberg
Outing Coordinator

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care. Come by for a tour.***

299 Hurley Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
301-762-8900
www.collingswoodnursing.com

WANT A WANT AD?

The MRSPA Board of Directors has agreed to accept advertising. Dimensions and per issue rates are as follows:

Business card	3.0" wide x 2.0" tall	\$35
Quarter page	3.5" wide x 4.75" tall	\$60
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" tall	\$110
Full page	7.5" wide x 10.0" tall	\$200

An ad cannot exceed the above dimensions and should be emailed to the Newsletter Editor as a WORD attachment.

Deadlines for future Newsletters are as
January 7, 2010 for the February 2010 issue
March 4, 2010 for the April 2010 issue
May 6, 2010 for the June 2010 issue

Send advertising copy jdahlberg2@verizon.net.
Mail check payable to MCPSRA (prior to publication)
to Treasurer, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849

MEMBERS APPROVE MCPSRA BYLAWS CHANGES

MCPSRA members attending the October 29 luncheon/membership meeting approved a series of changes in Association Bylaws. Most of the changes updated or clarified language, or conformed the Bylaws to current Association practice.

There were three substantive changes, however.

1. Bylaw revisions now call for “unified” dues (i.e., members must join both the local and state associations—MCPSRA and MRSPA). Local-only membership is no longer permitted.
2. “Emeritus” memberships were eliminated for those who become 90 after July 1, 2010. Previously, members were no longer required to pay Association dues after reaching their 90th birthday. Since MCPSRA does not record members’ birthdates and, since members of this age continue to receive retirement and social security payments, there seemed to be no need to eliminate payment of dues
3. Finally, the past president was given a seat on the Board of Directors.

The Association’s Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are available on our website. www.mcpsretirees.org.

2010 MCPS RETIREMENT SAME AS 2009

State and county retirements/pensions have always included a cost-of-living increase. However, the Consumer Price Index on which those increases have been based actually declined in 2009. As a result, MCPS retirement/pension checks in 2010 could have been reduced by 1.68%.

To avoid that, however, Superintendent Jerry Weast recommended a change in the MCPS retirement and pension agreement and the Board of Education unanimously approved the change. The change will keep retirement/pension checks at the same amount in 2010 as they were in 2009. In the next year in which there is an increase in the Consumer Price Index, that 1.68% decline for 2009 will be deducted from retirement/pension checks. If, for instance, that 1.68% would have required an annual \$500 retirement/pension reduction, that \$500 will be deducted from the next year in which there is a positive increase in the Consumer Price Index.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

President Gerry Johnson, LeeAnn Kaye, Dr. Ken Muir, Lois Stoner and I represented MCPSRA at the MRSPA Legislative Workshop in Annapolis, on Tuesday, November 10th. We received an outlook on the budget from Nancy Kopp, Treasurer of Maryland and a report on the status of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System from Howard Pleines, the legislative director of MSRPS. Lance Kilpatrick and Megan Hookey reported on the NRTA/AARP health care outlook and the national perspective about the House bill that was passed by a 220-215 vote late on Saturday, November 7th. Mr. Kilpatrick explained the rationale for AARP’s support of the House bill and responded to questions from the floor.

We also received reports about the 2010 budget and thoughts on the upcoming legislative session from Delegate Norman Conway, chair of the House Appropriations Committee and Senator Richard Madaleno, District 18, a member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

MRSPA President Chuch Ridgeway gave us a demonstration of the Advocacy Tool on the MRSPA website, locating our member identification number, and how to communicate with our delegates and senators. Ted Meyerson, President of United Seniors of Maryland, talked about the goals of USM for 2010 and a rally in Annapolis in mid-January.

As I announced at the October 29th luncheon, we have scheduled a lobbying trip to Annapolis to meet with our Montgomery County Delegates and Senators on Monday, March 1st, 2010. A bus that seats 47 and has a bathroom on board has been reserved through Eyre Travel. We will leave from the CESC parking lot at 4:00 p.m. and return by 9:00 p.m. Since food is not permitted in the room at the Lowe House Office Building that was assigned to our group, we will arrange for box lunches on the bus. A nominal charge of \$10.00 per person will cover the box lunch and contribute to the cost of the bus. Further details will be available in the February newsletter.

If you have legislative questions or want to place your name on the reservation list for the bus trip to Annapolis, please call me at 301-774-9494 or email me at Hjanehardy@aol.com.

Jane Hardy, Legislative Chair

MCPSRA SCHOLARSHIPS

As the end of 2009 approaches, consider giving a tax deductible contribution to help fund a MCPSRA scholarship. If you are interested in making a contribution to help MCPS employees further their education, you can make a check payable to MCPS Educational Foundation, indicate MCPSRA Scholarship Fund on the notation line. If you want your contribution to be given in Honor of or in Memory of someone, please note this and include an address for an acknowledgement notification. Checks made out to "MCPSRA Scholarship" need to be mailed to:

Montgomery County Public Schools
MCPS Educational Foundation
850 Hungerford Drive - Rm. 149
Rockville, MD 20850-1718

Joy Schwab and Ann Eberly
Scholarship Co-chairs

Tax Season: The New Season to Give Tax-Aide Offers Short-term Volunteer Opportunities...

And You Don't Need an Accounting Degree!

We know many retired educators enjoy volunteer opportunities that can help their friends and neighbors but many prospective volunteers want some level of certainty about the time commitment needed for the activity. Since tax season is just around the corner, here is a way to make a real difference in your community without needing to make a long-term commitment: Volunteer for AARP, the nation's largest FREE tax preparation and assistance service.

There are four different volunteer opportunities – from tax volunteers to greeters as well as communications and technology coordinators. One could be right for you!

Like working with numbers?

Tax Volunteer

Tax Volunteers interact with clients by filling out tax returns. Even if you don't have accounting or tax preparation experience, becoming a Tax Volunteer may be right for you. AARP provides training in preparing tax forms and using tax preparation software.

Like working with people better than working with numbers?

Greeter

An AARP Tax-Aide Greeter is the first person clients meet when they enter a tax site. Greeters make sure the client has all the necessary paperwork before meeting with a tax volunteer, and they manage the flow of clients being served.

Have a knack for computers and technology?

Technology Coordinator

Technology coordinators manage computer equipment, work to ensure taxpayer data security or provide technical assistance to volunteers at multiple sites on technology issues.

Love getting the word out about community services?

Communications Coordinator

Communications coordinators promote AARP Tax-Aide to potential clients from February to April and recruit volunteers in the fall for the following tax season. They may also seek in-kind donations or help raise funds for computer equipment and other materials to maintain and expand services in their communities.

When you volunteer for AARP Tax-Aide, your expertise will be appreciated more than you can imagine. Help others by joining the AARP Tax-Aide volunteer team today! **Visit the Tax-Aide website at www.aarp.org/taxaide or call toll-free 1-888-687-2277**

Joy Schwab and Ken Huff after their induction into the MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



PARKING INFORMATION

Overnight trip parking information will be indicated in each trip description. Day trips will leave from Park & Ride lot on Norbeck Rd. & Georgia Ave.

YOUR TRAVEL INFORMATION

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SHARE IT, ALONG WITH SPECIFIC TRIP INFORMATION, WITH YOUR GUESTS.

1. We all travel at our own risk.
2. There is always some walking involved as we travel. Read each itinerary carefully, keeping in mind your own capabilities.
3. Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
4. Trips are open to members, their families and friends (adults).
5. Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the coach.
6. About three to five days before a day trip, participants are called to remind them of the day and departure time of the trip. For overnight coach trips, about two weeks prior to the date of departure, a letter with up to date information, including parking details, and one baggage tag per person will be mailed to you.
7. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include name and date of trip on check...
8. Send check with completed reservation form.
9. Your reservation is definite upon receipt of deposit/full payment, whichever is required. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants needed by the deadline as published, your check will be returned to you. Feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
10. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
11. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
12. Anyone interested in insurance for overnight trips should call Ellen at Eyre Tour and Travel at 301-854-6600, ext. 3252 or 410-442-1330, ext. 3252 or 1-800-321-3973, ext. 3252.
13. We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.

TRAVEL CO-CHAIRS

Frieda J. Price..... 301-926-2286
105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

Mary Ann Davis..... 301-253-6256
23509 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017

MCPSRA TRIPS IN 2010

- March 2(4) Philadelphia Flower Show
- April 7 Odyssey Luncheon Cruise
- May 5 Longwood Gardens
- June 8-9 Richmond, VA

Information regarding the following trips will be in the February newsletter.

- June 30 Newseum
- July 21 Allenberry Playhouse with lunch
Show **My Fair Lady**

Changes and additions are always possible.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Presenting the 2010 Philadelphia Flower Show, *Passport to the World*, with highlighted colors, textures, scents and sounds from India, Netherlands, South Africa, Brazil, Singapore and New Zealand. In addition to such exotic floral displays, there will be shopping and sipping, including innovative garden tools, plants and flowers, jewelry and crafts for sale as well as an international collection of wines and spirits for sampling free with Show admission.

***Since weather is such an unpredictable factor for trips in March, our alternate date in case of inclement weather is **Thursday, March 4, 2010**. Please reserve both dates on your calendar; tickets are non-refundable.

- 9:00 am Depart Norbeck Park & Ride Lot
- 12:00 noon Arrive Philadelphia Flower Show
Afternoon and Lunch on your own
- 5:00 pm Depart Philadelphia
- 8:00 pm Return to Norbeck Park and Ride Lot

Included: Round-trip transportation, deluxe EYRE motorcoach; admission to Flower Show; taxes and tolls. Does NOT include gratuity for motorcoach operator.

Cost: \$65.00 per person

Due Date: February 9, 2010

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail completed registration form to Frieda J. Price
105 N. Summit Ave, Apt. 4
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

ANNUAL ODYSSEY LUNCHEON CRUISE

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Join us as we enjoy good food, good service and good company while cruising down the beautiful Potomac on the ODYSSEY III, the only craft of its kind in the U.S. Outside decks and glass ceilings provide panoramic views of the cherry blossoms, historic national monuments and the Washington skyline.

- 9:00 am Depart Norbeck Park and Ride Lot
(Memorials and city driving tour as time and traffic permit prior to boarding ship.)
- 11:00 am Board ODYSSEY III
- 11:30-2:00 Luncheon and Cruise
- 3:00 pm Approximate time of return

Includes: Round-trip transportation, luncheon and cruise on ODYSSEY, including tax and gratuity.

Does NOT include gratuity for motorcoach operator.

Cost: \$87.00 per person

Due Date: March 2, 2010

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail completed registration form to Frieda J. Price

105 N. Summit Ave, Apt. 4
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

**LONGWOOD GARDENS
AND
BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM
Wednesday, May 5, 2010**

Come 'tiptoe through the tulips'...and lots of other beautiful spring flowers at the **Longwood Gardens** near Wilmington, Delaware. There are 11,000 varieties of trees, shrubs and plants, 20 outdoor gardens, a conservatory with 4 acres under glass, displays, fountains and special seasonal events. If you've never been, this is a great time of the year to be there! The estate belonged to Pierre Samuel DuPont, a great-grandson of E. I. DuPont. There will be time for strolling the lush grounds and gardens as well as the Conservatory. Lunch will be on your own in the cafeteria or the Terrace Tea Room. Departing Longwood, we'll be stopping just down the road in Wyeth country at the **Brandywine River Museum**. Housed in a restored grist mill is an unparalleled collection of Wyeth works spanning three generations and located in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, the area that inspired many of the works by the Wyeth family. Other outstanding works in the collection include American illustration, still life and landscape painting.

8:00 am Depart Norbeck Park & Ride Lot
6:00 pm Return to Norbeck Park and Ride Lot

Included: Round-trip transportation, deluxe EYRE motorcoach; admission to Longwood Gardens and Brandywine River Museum. Does NOT include gratuity for motorcoach operator.

Cost: \$63.00 per person

Due Date: March 31, 2010

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail completed registration form to Frieda J. Price

105 N. Summit Ave, Apt. 4
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
June 8-9, 2010**

The Virginia State Capitol reopened to great fanfare with a visit by Queen Elizabeth II in the spring of 2007. The capitol is gleaming as a result of extensive restoration. The building was designed in neoclassical temple style by Thomas Jefferson.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has recently expanded exhibition space with a five-level glass and stone wing, outdoor sculpture garden and two new restaurants. The museum features the Mellon collections of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art. the Pratt collection of Peter Carl Faberge and extensive collection of English silver. New galleries of Art Nouveau and Art Deco decorative Arts and contemporary Art.

St. John's Church is the sight of Patrick Henry's impassioned oratory "give me liberty or give me death". It is the oldest wooden church in Virginia and there still remains an active congregation. We plan to arrange for a private re-enactment of the revolutionary speech the day we are there.

June 8

7:00 am Depart Norbeck Park and Ride Lot
10:00 am Visit the Va. State Capital and the Governor's Mansion.

12:30 - 4:00 pm Visit the Va. Museum of Fine Arts
Lunch on your own in their cafe
4:30 pm Check in the historic Jefferson Hotel.
6:00 pm Depart for dinner

June 9

AM Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 am Check out of hotel and depart for a city tour followed by a stop at Shockoe Slip or Carytown for shopping and lunch on own.
1:00 pm Visit Agcroft Hall
3:00 pm Depart for Home
5:30 pm Arrive back at Park and Ride Lot

Cost: \$369.00 double \$459.00 Single

Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach transportation, tours as listed, 1 night accommodation, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner, tolls, taxes, and gratuities except for the coach operator.

Deposit of \$200.00

Balance Due

Due: Feb. 5, 2010

April 7, 2010

Make checks payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed registration form to Mary Ann Davis

23509 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

**ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE LINES
ENCHATMENT OF THE SEAS
CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND**

**Baltimore; Portland, ME; St. John, New Brunswick;
Halifax, Nova Scotia; Bar Harbor, ME; Boston, MA
June 18 -26, 2010**

Inside Cabin Category Q \$1,115
Outside Cabin Category I \$1,315
Balcony Cabin Category D2 \$2,165

*Rates are per person, double occupancy, and include cruise, port charges and government fees.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR CABIN EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED.

****VALID PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL****

DEPOSIT POLICY: An initial deposit of \$350.00 per person double occupancy or \$700 per person single is required. To secure reservations and assigned cabin. Final balance is due March 9, 2010.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION,

**CONTACT Frieda Price OR Mary Ann Davis
301-926-2286 301-253-6256**

TRIP RESERVATION FORM:

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # of reservations _____ Total amount enclosed _____ Make check payable to **MCPSRA**.

*Cell phone # _____

-----cut here-----

TRIP RESERVATION FORM:

ANNUAL ODYSSEY LUNCHEON CRUISE

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # of reservations _____ Total amount enclosed _____ Make check payable to **MCPSRA**.

*Cell phone # _____

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TRIP RESERVATION FORM:

LONGWOOD GARDENS AND BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # of reservations _____ Total amount enclosed _____ Make check payable to **MCPSRA**.

*Cell phone # _____

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TRIP RESERVATION FORM

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

June 8-9, 2010

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Address _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Total # of reservations _____ Total amount enclosed _____ Make check payable to **MCPSRA**.

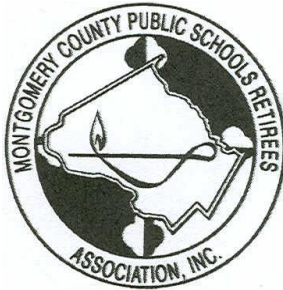
*Cell phone # _____

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in

**October, December, February,
April, and June**

This is the December 2009 issue.

**Mark your calendars for the
next luncheon on
February 25, 2010**



**Montgomery County Public Schools
MCPS Retirees Association, Inc.
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850**

DATED MATERIAL