

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.



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

VOLUME 2008-09, ISSUE #3

FEBRUARY 2009

Dr. George B. Thomas Sr., a member of the MCPSRA Board of Directors was honored as a
2008 Washingtonian of the Year.



Congratulations, Dr. Thomas!

As a boy in segregated South Carolina, George Thomas shared a teacher with six grades in one room. His mother sacrificed to send him to a private high school, where he fell in love with Shakespeare and won the award for greatest progress in English.

Thomas wanted to instill the same love of learning—and success—in Montgomery County children. Now retired as a business teacher, principal, and administrator in county schools, as president of Voorhees College, and as a federal program administrator, he looked at the achievement gap of African-American students and started a Saturday-morning tutoring/mentoring program to help.

In 1986, with 21 students and 19 volunteers, the George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy opened in a daycare center. Thomas won the use of county school space and materials as well as parents' and students' promises of regular attendance. When student scores began to rise, school leaders asked him to expand the academy. This year it expects almost 4,000 students.

Though targeting minority and at-risk youth in grades 1 through 12, the program is open to all for \$20 a year. Two years ago, the County Council authorized an afterschool component that links sports with academics. Both programs are aligned with county curricula and run in part on county funds.

The payoff: Among first-graders, 7 percent met reading benchmarks in fall 2007; by spring 2008, that was 73 percent. Although just 22 Saturday sessions are possible in a year, one-quarter of third-through-eighth-graders climbed a full letter grade in both reading and math.

Now 79, Thomas works seven days a week recruiting, overseeing programs, and raising funds. He started workshops for parents and a scholarship program.

Students give Saturday School top grades. "I raised my E to a B and I was happy," one youngster wrote. "It helped me to figure out how to study in college," says an alumna. "They could be sleeping in," Thomas says of his thousands of students, "but they exude enthusiasm here."



Officers

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On behalf of the MCPSRA Board of Directors, we congratulate fellow board member, Dr. George B. Thomas Sr., for his selection as a *2008 Washingtonian of the Year* by the *Washingtonian* magazine. As our front page story makes clear, the George B. Thomas Learning Academy has provided meaningful academic and emotional support to many MCPS students and families.

January 20, 2009 was a remarkable day in United States history with the inauguration of our 44th President, Barack H. Obama. Although millions of citizens were present at the event, I had one of the better “seats in the house” as I sat glued to the TV with my family. We must realize that this was a gigantic positive step for our country, but, in my opinion, there is still work to be done to ensure that all Americans, regardless of background, economic status, or social class are treated equitably. President Obama and the United States Congress have many challenges to face and to overcome and we must offer our support and recommendations.

In that spirit, when you receive this newsletter, the Maryland State Legislature will be grappling with, at current estimates, a \$1.8 billion deficit. The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and your MCPSRA Board of Directors continue to monitor how Governor Martin O’Malley and the state legislators deal with, what some are describing as, the most serious economic crisis since the 1930’s. To his credit, the governor did not include a shift of retirement costs to the local jurisdictions in his budget proposal. However, during future debate and discussion in this session, this concept can still be proposed as it was during the last session. As I have mentioned in my prior messages to you, contact your state representatives and voice your opposition to any proposal to shift retirement costs to the local jurisdictions (Toll-free 1 800-492-7122 or Email through the General Assembly web site <http://mlis.state.md.us>) We must continue to focus on legislative advocacy and political action to ensure that our retirement benefits not only are protected, but also are enhanced. Ms. Jane Hardy, legislative chairperson, and Ms. LeeAnn Kaye, political action chairperson, should be contacted with any suggestions.

The MCPSRA Board welcomes Dr. Carol Dahlberg to the Board of Directors. Dr. Dahlberg had a distinguished career in MCPS and we are pleased that she will become a member of our team. If any of you would like to be a member of the MCPS Board, please do not hesitate to contact me. We have a great group of volunteers who keep your association moving in a positive direction. As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or questions about how we can better serve our members!



MEMBERSHIP ALERT

Betsy Doyle, MRSPA Membership Chair

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 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, 2009. 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 your retiree friends and encourage them to sign up if they are not already members.

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!



COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association
Application for Membership
(Please Print)**

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.

Mail to: MCPSRA	MRSPA DUES	\$25.00
Box 4367	Local Dues	<u>10.00</u>
Rockville, MD 20849-4367	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 in effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

Signature _____

Date _____

Hospice Caring – You Can Help

In the December 2008 Newsletter of the MCPS Retirees Association there was a wonderful article about “What is Community Service?” Hospice Caring is a great example of what your participation in community service can do. Today with the changing economy and the changing needs of our community we need new ideas and additional volunteers to continue to provide our four major programs for the people of Montgomery County.

This year is the 20th anniversary of Hospice Caring, the unique all volunteer organization that supports end of life care and provides bereavement services to adults and children. Its success has, in large part, been dependent upon the volunteers from the ranks of MCPS retirees. They have been the caregivers of our Patient and Family program by sharing one’s end of life journey in homes, hospitals and nursing facilities. They have facilitated our 8 adult bereavement programs. Since 1998 our exceptional program called the “Good Grief Club” was invited into MCPS, during school hours, to provide support to children suffering the loss of a loved one in an environment where the children are comfortable. In 2007 Hospice Caring began a unit on grief in the high school’s health curriculum. Without the participation of your members, these valuable programs never would have gotten off the ground. In 2005 Hospice Caring received the Montgomery County Public Schools Community Service Award. Camp Caring, our 3 day overnight program for children 8 to 12 years old who are grieving, is in its 8th year. It has been the school’s guidance counselors, teachers and your membership that have made these programs successful.

There is never a charge for any of our programs. Hospice Caring is a gift to the community it serves. Our next training is in March, 2009. For more information about volunteer opportunities or questions about Hospice Caring call Penny Gladhill at 301-990-8901 or visit our website at www.hospicecaring.org or view us on Youtube.com and type in Hospice Caring.



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dslovebird@earthlink.net

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Summer Months: \$875/week

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Contact Ms. Dee Snyder (retired MCPS teacher) for available dates.
386-258-2186 dslovebird@earthlink.net

MCPSRA Luncheon - February 26, 2009

Please plan to attend future luncheons:

April 23, 2009 June 25, 2009



Is your group or organization:

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- In need of renewal?**
- Realizing changes (members, goals, etc.)?**
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For more information, contact **Mike Codori** at:

(301) 460-7951 or mikecodori@verizon.net

A PROJECT OF HOPE

Hope is a word that has appeared frequently in recent weeks in front page newspaper articles, campaign slogans, and projections of future financial markets. It most likely is a word that was uttered numerous times by us all in the last few months: *I hope I can get my shopping done in time to be able to enjoy the Holidays; I hope I get all my packages mailed in time; I hope my tax sheltered annuity doesn't lose any more money; I hope our new president can turn our country's economy around.* At the most difficult times in our lives we describe some situations as seemingly *hopeless*. Once the crisis passes, though, we realize that we actually hoped *more* during that time, not *less*.

When a product called "Hope in a Jar" appeared on a popular television shopping channel in December it immediately invoked a response from me. No, I did not immediately pick up the telephone and order it! But I did start thinking of *hope* and what the word really means. A dictionary defines it as ". . .to wish for something with some expectation, belief, and confidence of fulfillment." I realized just how often I used the word *hope* in the past year and continue to use it when thinking and talking about our **Toolkits, Books, and Backpacks Project**: *I hope we can raise enough money so we can provide a toolkit for each kindergartner that needs one; I hope we can get corporate sponsors to donate items for in the kits; I hope we get the grant for which we applied; I hope MCPSRA members believe in this project as much as the committee members do and will step forward and sponsor the toolkits; I hope everyone realizes what these toolkits mean to the children and their families.* The word that is often times overlooked in that dictionary definition of hope is *belief*. Frank Lloyd Wright once was quoted as saying, "The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen." "In any project the important factor is your belief. Without belief there can be no successful outcome," is how William James said it.

For the past five years MCPSRA members have believed in this project and brought hope to so many children who were in need. Do the toolkits make a difference and are they really appreciated? Here's what a parent of a kindergartner at Georgian Forest ES wrote last summer: *I just wanted to say thank you to the members of MCPSRA for putting together these wonderful toolkits. I received one of these kits today for my son who is entering kindergarten. . . . I can't wait to get him started with some of the activities included in this kit. This is such a wonderful idea and a great way to get a jump start on learning. The time and money spent on putting these together is greatly appreciated and will benefit so many children, mine included.* It is often said that the hope in the future of our nation lies in the youth of today. Therefore, we will continue to hope that you will answer our plea and sponsor toolkits for our county's needy children with a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation We find hope in something Ann Landers once said: *To those who need encouragement, remember this: Beware of quitting too soon. Dr. Seuss' first children's book was rejected by 23 publishers. The 24th publisher sold 6 million copies.* We will never quit asking for your help because we know that we can't truly purchase *Hope in a Jar* but we can provide it in a toolkit for a needy child. Join the 109 other members that have already done so and invest in the hope of a better future for our youth and our nation.



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 _____



THE GEORGE B. THOMAS, SR. LEARNING ACADEMY, INC.

Get Involved as a Tutor!

Thinking about getting involved with students again? Would you again like to experience the joy when a child really "gets it" because of your guidance and support? Then the GBTLA is the place for you! The 2008–09 season is upon us, so please consider tutoring for the GBTLA this year. It is a great opportunity to work with a wonderful group of students.

Both lead tutors and volunteers are needed. Individuals with certification are eligible to serve as lead tutors and will receive a stipend of \$37 per hour. Those without certification can serve as volunteers.

All twelve center locations are in need of both lead tutors and volunteers:

- Montgomery Blair Center
- Albert Einstein Center
- Gaithersburg Center
- John F. Kennedy Center
- Northwest Center
- Magruder Center
- Paint Branch Center
- Rockville Center
- Sherwood Center
- Springbrook Center
- Watkins Mill Center
- Wheaton Center



We encourage you to visit any of the centers for a tour or to observe the sessions. Just call the GBTLA main office to let us know where you will be visiting so we can make sure the center director is available to welcome you.

Tutoring sessions are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. from October through May. If you are interested, please contact Michael Thomas, Executive Director, on 301.320.6545.



Save the Date!

It's never too early to plan for golf! The GBTLA 15th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009. The tournament is held in the morning, followed by a great barbeque lunch.

Save the date—it's a great event!

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www.potomacvalley.com



PARKING INFORMATION

Day trip parking information will be indicated in each trip description. Overnight 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

ALLENBERRY THEATER LUNCH AND SHOW "FOREVER PLAID"



DATE: April 18, 2009

Itinerary: 9:00 am—Depart Norbeck Rd and Ga. Ave., Park and Ride
11:30 am—Arrive-Allenberry Theater - lunch
1:00 pm—Showtime - FOREVER PLAID.
3:00 pm—Depart for home
5:00 pm—Approx. Arrival time - Park and Ride

FOREVER PLAID is Fresh, Funny and Fabulous! A side-splitting 50's and 60's Musical of nerdy crooners with angelic voices.

COST: \$94.00 per person

DATE DUE: March 12, 2009

INCLUDED: - Round-trip deluxe Eyre motor coach transportation, lunch, show, tolls taxes and gratuities. Does not include gratuity for the operator.

Make check payable to MCPSRA and mail with reservation form to Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 208977-2935

THE HOMESTEAD, Hot Springs, Virginia Sunday, April 26th to Tuesday, April 28th, 2009

Surrounded by the splendor of the Allegheny Mountains, this National Historic Landmark welcomed its first guests a decade before the American Revolution! It has been a cherished destination for generations of travelers and remains a true luxury resort. Come with us and enjoy

Southern hospitality, elegant accommodations, fine golf and spa facilities, and real pleasure time!

Sunday, April 26 9:00 a.m.—Depart Norbeck Park & Ride
Tuesday, April 28 6:00 p.m.—Return Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: Deluxe EYRE motorcoach transportation; 2 nights accommodations at the HOMESTEAD; breakfast & dinner daily; access to Fitness Center and Indoor Mineral Pool; afternoon tea and nightly movies; luggage handling; resort service charge and state/local tax. Does NOT include gratuity for driver.

Cost: \$699.00 per person, double occupancy; \$939.00 single occupancy

Credit card payment may be arranged through EYRE Tour & Travel.

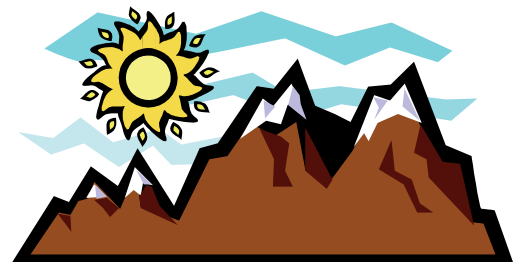
Please call 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 for Ellen, explaining you are an MCPSRA member.

Due dates: \$200.00 per person deposit by February 11, 2009
Balance due: March 13, 2009

Make checks payable to MCPSRA and mail with completed registration forms to:

Frieda J. Price 301-926-2286

105 N. Summit Ave., #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877



MUSEUM of the SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Winchester, Virginia

Tuesday, May 5th, 2009

The historic property, **Glen Burnie**, was home to James Wood, founder of Winchester, Virginia.

On arrival, a guided tour will take us through the mansion and the gardens with some free time to explore the gardens and grounds.

Opening in 2005, the **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** is an extension of the rich historic context of the Glen Burnie site and the entire Valley of the Shenandoah River. There are 50,000 square feet of display space housed in a building designed by Michael Graves & Associates.

After lunch, there will be time to explore the **Museum Complex**, which contains a total of five collections, two of which were toured before lunch. **The Shenandoah Valley Gallery** explores the Valley history as well as three rooms of decorative arts made in the Valley from mid-1700's to present. **The Julian Wood Glass Jr. Gallery** presents the collection assembled by one of the Valley's most significant private collectors, and includes paintings, furniture and many other objects illustrating portraiture, landscape and the Grand Tour. **The R. Lee Taylor Miniatures Gallery** shows a fascinating collection of furnished miniature houses and rooms, most of which are electrified. In addition, there is a **Changing Exhibition Gallery**.

9:00 a.m.—Depart Norbeck Park & Ride

1:00 p.m.—Buffet lunch in the Museum Cafe

6:00 p.m.—Return Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: deluxe EYRE motor coach transportation; box lunch; all admissions, tolls, taxes; and gratuities. Does NOT include gratuity for coach operator.

Cost: \$76.00 per person

Date due: March 24th, 2009

Make checks payable to: **MCPSRA** and mail with completed registration form to:

Frieda J. Price 301-926-2286

105 North Summit Avenue, #4 Gaithersburg,

Maryland 20877-2935



Madison's Montpelier & the Barboursville Winery

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

About five years ago, restoration of James Madison's home, Montpelier – "...a squirrel's jump from heaven..." according to Mr. Madison's description – began in earnest and has been re-opened to much public acclaim. It has been a major and most ambitious house restoration project of present time, and presents, in addition, a look at the William duPont legacy that has been so much a part of this historic trust site. Madison had lived in the original house while growing up from about the age of ten, and would return there after his stay at Princeton. In 1797, after his marriage to Dolley and completion of his congressional term, he added a portico and expanded the house so that it was an early 'duplex', having space enough for himself and his wife and for his parents, having no links between the living spaces. Montpelier, the Original, had been through many, many changes, both during and after the Madison era. These proved both useful and challenging to the Montpelier Foundation and the restoration project. Most visitors now agree that the restoration has been a huge success. Boxed picnic lunch will be on the grounds as we enjoy English-style landscaping from the DuPont era of ownership.

While we are in this area of Virginia, we'll visit the famous Barboursville Vineyards for a tour and tasting before ending our pleasant day trip. This vineyard was established in Virginia in 1976 by the Zonin family of Italy, establishing the revered *vitis vinifera* vines, a favored vine of Thomas Jefferson. The original estate mansion was designed by Jefferson for James Barbour, who was Governor, then Senator of Virginia and served as Defense Secretary and Ambassador to Great Britain under John Quincy Adams. Jefferson used the central octagonal parlor in his design of the house and today, the premier wine label for Barboursville Vineyards is 'Octagon'.

7:00 a.m.—Depart Norbeck Park & Ride

5:00 p.m.—Return to Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: Round trip transportation as described on deluxe EYRE motorcoach; admission fees as described; lunch; taxes, tolls and gratuities. Does NOT include gratuity for local guide nor driver.

Cost: \$93.00 per person

Date due: April 24th, 2009

Make checks payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed reservation form to:

Mary Ann Davis 301-253-6256

23509 Woodfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882



St Mary's City and Southern Maryland
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Explore with us this quaint, historic college town on a southern-most tip of Maryland where the Potomac River, the St. Mary's River, the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay come together. It was in 1634 that the Ark and the Dove ships with Leonard Calvert and other settlers reached this point and set up the colony which is now the state of Maryland. St. Mary's City was the capital of the state until 1695. There is much to see in **St. Mary's City**, including the 800-acre museum that has a square-rigged ship, tobacco plantation, town center and a Woodland Indian Hamlet. Costumed interpreters re-create 17th century settings depicting life in Colonial Maryland. **Trinity Church**, dating from 1829, and the campus of **St. Mary's College of Maryland** will also be included in our visit.

Moving a bit north, we'll find **Sotterly Plantation**, a 1717 mansion overlooking the Patuxent River. Included while we are at this location will be a **box lunch** on the grounds and time to browse the English gardens, house and outbuildings which were part of this very early Maryland plantation.

The Calvert Marine Museum, a **boat tour of the harbor** (one of the world's deepest natural ports), and the rest of the afternoon to stroll around **Solomons** to shop and/or to grab a light repast on-your-own will complete our visit to one more of Maryland's many diverse areas.

7:30 a.m.—Depart Norbeck Park & Ride

6:30 p.m.—Return Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: Round-trip and other transportation as described via EYRE Deluxe Motorcoach; box lunch; admission to all sites as described; boat trip around Solomons harbor; taxes, tolls and gratuities as described. Does NOT include gratuities for driver and local guides.

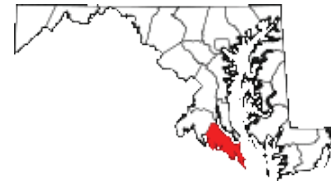
Cost: \$95.00 per person

Due: May 18th, 2009

Make check payable to: **MCPSRA** and mail with completed registration form to:

Mary Ann Davis 301-253-6256

23509 Woodfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882



2009 CRUISES from Baltimore
FOR INFORMATION, REQUIRED REGISTRATION FORMS AND ISURANCE SEND A LEGAL SIZE, SELF AD-DRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR EACH CRUISE TO FRIEDA J PRICE 105 N. SUMMIT AVE. #4, GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

BERMUDA

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Occupancy Outside cabin \$1139.00 per person, double occupancy
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Inside cabin \$1,258.00 per person, double occupancy
Outsidecabin \$1,418.00 per person,double occupancy
VALID PASSPORT REQUIRED

FOR RESERVATIONS: CALL GRAND AMERICAN TOURS OR SEND CHECK WITH RESERVATION FORM TO GRAND AMERICAN TOURS 5 S MORTON AVENUE--MORTON, PA.19070
PH: 1-800-423-0247
Identify yourself as an MCPSRA member

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL FRIEDA PRICE OR MARY ANN DAVIS
301-926-2286 301-253-6256

There is no deadline for a cruise deposit as long as cabins are available.
But be aware that cabins usually go quickly-some categories more than others.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE
SHOW: SINGING IN THE RAIN
LUNCH AND SHOW
WED, JULY 8, 2009

DEPART: 9:00 am—Park and Ride, Ga. Ave and Norbeck Rd
11:45 am—Arr: Dutch Apple Theatre - Lunch
1:00 pm—Enjoy the classic, every popular musical SINGING IN THE RAIN.
3:30 pm—Depart for home
6:00 pm—Arrive at Park and Ride

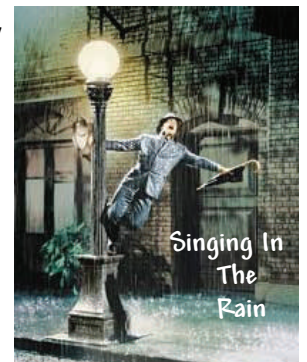
INCLUDED: Eyre Motor coach Transportation, lunch, show, tolls, taxes, gratuities. Does not include gratuity for our couch operator.

COST: \$93.00 per person

DATE DUE: March 20, 2009

Make check payable to MCPSRA and mail with reservation form to Mary Ann Davis

23509 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017



**February 26th Luncheon Speaker
Community Safety - Practical Strategies**

Officer Diane Tillery is the Community Services Officer for the Montgomery County Police Sixth District. This area serves Gaithersburg, Kentlands and Montgomery Village. Officer Tillery has been on the force for 28 years and has worked in every district except Germantown. She spent four years in the Family Crimes Division handling child abuse cases and has been in her current assignment for 4.5 years. Officer Tillery enjoys working with community groups to identify problems and work toward solutions together. She has received the Governors Award for Crime Prevention twice and, this year, will receive the Exceptional Service Award for "Montgomery's Best" from County Executive Ike Leggett. A life long county resident, Diane lives in Boyds with her husband and children



WANT A WANT AD?

The MCPSRA 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 or as camera ready copy via US mail. WORD formatting will be provided on request to the Newsletter Editor. If you need professional help in following these guidelines, it is available, pro-rated at \$85 per hour, at A.G. Fiorill Printing (www.fiorillprinting@aol.com) or at 301-776-0585 or by FAX at 301-776-0592.

Deadlines for future Newsletters are as

January 8, 2009 for the February 2009 issue

Send advertising copy (email to fevans424@comcast.net; surface mail to Newsletter, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849-4367. Mail check payable to MCPSRA (in advance of publication) to Treasurer, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849-4367.

As a Reminder....

SAN ANTONIO GETAWAY
COLLETTE VACATIONS
5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS
April 27, 2009

For additional information and to make your reservation call Travel Agent, **Mary**, at EYRE; 1-800-321-3973--x 3217. PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A MCPSRA MEMBER.

WHY WOMEN'S HISTORY?

"One great satisfaction in learning women's history is the thrill of engaging in a subversive activity. Even in today's market, important facts about the impact of women in social movements and most disciplines are largely ignored by masculinist historians who profess to write the "whole story." Such books often completely ignore specific women.



Knowing the lives of important women (gleaned from women and men historians devoted to equality) provides unlimited openings in daily conversations. If the subject turns to presidential candidates, for example, the women's history buff mildly asks, "Have you read about the professional and inspired campaign Belva Lockwood ran in 1884?" If the answer is "Yes," you have met a colleague and discussion is open. If the answer is, "No, what did She do?" you have an audience who is eager to learn. Either way you have hit gold.

Margaret Zierdt, retired Maryland teacher and Board member of the National Women's History Project

Read all about it in

**Winning the Vote:
The Triumph of the American Woman
Suffrage Movement**

by Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr.



Trip Reservation Forms



ALLENBERRY THEATER LUNCH AND SHOW
"FOREVER PLAID"
April 18, 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



THE HOMESTEAD, Hot Springs, Virginia
Sunday, April 26th to Tuesday, April 28th, 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



MUSEUM of the SHENANDOAH VALLEY Winchester, Virginia
Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



Madison's Montpelier & the Barboursville Winery
Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____

St Mary's City and Southern Maryland
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___
Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



Bermuda
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line Grandeur of The Seas June 27, 2009 6 Days / 5 Nights

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___
Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



Dutch Apple Theatre
July 8 2009

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___
Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____



Bahamas
November 21, 2009 10 Days / 9 Nights

Name _____ Phone # _____ Member, MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___
Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Name _____ Phone # _____
Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____

MRSPA Dues Increase Proposal

In the October issue of *MRSPA News*, I wrote about how the significant paper losses we have experienced on our investments are affecting the Association. Since then, the situation has gotten much worse. For the past three or four years, we have “balanced” the annual MRSPA budget by using investment earnings. Last year, and again this year, we have no earnings—just big “on paper” losses like most of you who have stock or mutual fund investments.

That article concluded by saying we have three choices about how to balance the MRSPA budget in the next fiscal year (2010)—“cut way back on expenses, substantially increase membership, or increase membership dues which have been unchanged since 2001.” The Association has been working hard to increase membership—and we get new members, but they are offset by other members’ deaths. With the governor and legislature facing a \$2 billion state budget shortfall, MRSPA must be more vigilant and work harder than ever to make sure that their budget balancing isn’t done on the backs of retirees. That leaves only one choice to resolve MRSPA budget problems, and at the March 4 meeting of the Board of Directors, I will recommend that MRSPA increase members’ annual dues by \$10, from \$25 to \$35.

If the Board adopts that recommendation, it will be subject to a vote of the delegates to the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting on May 12, 2009. If the delegates approve, the increase would not occur until July 2010, and hopefully by then, our personal financial situations will have improved a bit. In some respects, we are better off than active employees during this economic downturn because we will continue to get a cost-of-living increase in our pensions while many districts are canceling proposed salary increases.

This is a terrible time to propose a dues increase, but it is absolutely essential if MRSPA is to continue to represent you with the Maryland Pension and Retirement Systems, the Maryland General Assembly, the State Office of Aging, AARP, and other organizations with whom we work to ensure that retired school personnel are able to maintain themselves in dignity during their retirement years.

With a dues increase, we’ll be able to: (1) Balance the annual MRSPA budget; (2) Match the IRS business travel reimbursement allowance for MRSPA officers and committee members (currently we pay only 40.cents per mile while IRS permits nearly 60 cents per mile); and (3) Pay for new computer software which will enable the state office to reduce postage and mailing costs, centralize dues collections, and improve communication with members. By having all cash dues payments sent to MRSPA, local association treasurers will save many hours of labor and bank deposit fees.

I urge you to discuss this notion of a \$10 annual dues increase at your local meetings so that the local can instruct its delegates to the MRSPA Annual Meeting. If you have questions or concerns about this proposal, please contact me (kkmuir@aol.com or 301-460-9583) or Executive Director Judith Zahren at the MRSPA office (toll-free at 1-877-625-6782).

--Ken Muir, *MRSPA Treasurer*



MCPSRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING*

Thursday, February 26, 2009



NEW LOCATION :*

GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFE

7 Dalamar Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Telephone: 301-948-3666

TIME: Gathering at 11:00 a.m.
Business Meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon at 12:00 Noon
Program following the Luncheon

DIRECTIONS TO THE GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFÉ :

Take Exit #11 off I-270 onto Route 124E
(Quince Orchard Rd. toward Gaithersburg
and Montgomery Village)
Turn **RIGHT** onto Route 355 South (Frederick
Avenue) and go approximately 0.6 miles
Turn **RIGHT** onto Dalamar Street
Restaurant is on the left, parking available to
the left or right of the building as well as
in the lot across the street

MENU CHOICES:

Breast of Chicken \$17.50
Broiled Salmon \$20.00
English Prime Rib. \$20.00
Vegetarian Pasta. \$16.50

MEAL ALSO INCLUDES:

Fresh Garden Salad
Red Skin Potatoes
Vegetable of the Day
Dessert
Choice of Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea



RESERVATION(S) FOR MCPSRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Golden Bull Grand Café

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12:00 Noon Program

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
(please print)

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
(please print)

CIRCLE ENTRÉE CHOICE

Chicken (\$17.50)
Salmon (\$20.00)
Prime Rib (\$20.00)
Vegetarian Pasta (\$16.50)

Chicken (\$17.50)
Salmon (\$20.00)
Prime Rib (\$20.00)
Vegetarian Pasta (\$16.50)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

YOUR RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY February 23, 2009

Mail reservation form and check (PAYABLE TO MCPSRA) to:

**Mrs. Joan Donovan
13 Hilton Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521**

For information call: Joan Donovan 301-253-6099 or Jane Hardy 301-774-9494

**MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting
Thursday, February 26 2009**

GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFÉ

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 noon

Program

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in

October, December, February, April, and June

This is the February 2009 issue.



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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.**
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ROCKVILLE, MD 20849 4367

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