Montgomery County Public Schools

Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2020-21, Issue #3

February, 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Carol Dahlberg *President - MCPSRA*

The COVID-19 virus, and all of its newer and more infectious variants continue to impact our lives and daily activities. It's hard to believe, but it's been nearly a year

since we gathered together for our last MCPSRA luncheon— February 20, 2020.

It was a typical MCPSRA luncheon: a



February, 2020 MCPSRA Luncheon

casual meeting with friends and colleagues, good food and good entertainment. A great time was had by me and everyone I talked to.

Our February, 2020 luncheon closed with John Gamage, "Johnny G," strumming his guitar and singing his renditions of 50s country, folk, and calypso music.

We had no warning that a pandemic was on the horizon!

But within days everything changed! Many of us have been sheltering in place since March. Our social gatherings have been cancelled and our monthly MCPSRA Board of Directors meetings have been held on Zoom.

Despite these challenges, our members continue to reach out to help others by volunteering at local organizations... donating money and other resources to help those in need.

We continue to support the Josiah Henson Park and Educational Facility (p. 9) and our Toolkits project (p.3). Contributions to both are appreciated.

This year MCPSRA will resume providing scholarships to MCPS employees pursuing advanced degrees and professional development. We will work with MCPS to get



"Jonny G" performing at our February, 2020 Luncheon

applications to all staff. As I write this message, the MCPS Board of Education has determined that March 15 is the earliest date that students and staff will resume in-person instruction if health metrics are met. The situation is fluid, but

we have the resources

and are determined to continue our support of MCPS staff through our scholarships.

Building up our membership is particularly important. Our ability to fight to preserve your pension and health benefits is dependent on numbers. If you know retirees who are not MCPSRA members, please, encourage them to join. An application form is on page 8 and on our website MCPSRA.org. We are not alone in this fight. We continue to work with MRSPA and MCPS to protect your pension and health benefits.

On behalf of all MCPSRA members, I sent our condolences to Representative Jamie Raskin and Mrs. Raskin on the loss of their son Tommy. Losing a child is particularly painful and tragic.

Be sure to visit our webpage at mcpsra.org.

---Carol Dahlberg

PS. A special thank you to Bill Mills for the photographs included on this page.

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Trips	VACANT		

BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Business meeting/luncheons are held four times a year at the delightful Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Three dates remain:



Normandie Farm Restaurant has More than Popovers

February 18, 2021 April 15, 2021 June 17, 2021

February 18 MCPSRA Luncheon Cancelled

Unfortunately, the MCPSRA February 18 luncheon will not be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope this finds you, your family and loved ones healthy and safe.

Normandie Farm is open for outdoor dining and curbside carryout. Please check https://www.popovers.com/ to see what is happening at Normandie Farm: or just Google *Normandie Farm Restaurant*.

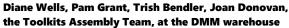
When things finally become more normal, we hope we will be able to continue our luncheons at Normandie Farm.

Please keep April 15th and June 17th on your calendar. Keep your fingers crossed that we will be able to gather together again and celebrate getting back to normal.

Take care! Stay safe! Be well!

LeeAnn Kave







Special Projects Committee Chairs, Joan Donovan and Trish Bendler, Orlando (Lanny) Taylor at the Department of Materials Management

A SPECIAL STIMULUS PACKAGE

For almost a year our nation and the world have had to deal with an unimaginable and horrific disaster of a pandemic, making us all hopeful that we can live through the experience. Every aspect of life as we once knew it has changed. Our number-one goal is now to survive unscathed without contracting the virus itself. Tens of thousands of Montgomery County residents have been unfortunate enough to have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Many have been hospitalized, fighting for their lives. And, over 1,200 lost that battle.

The COVID-19 pandemic has victimized citizens throughout our nation well beyond concern for their health. Mandated closures have left many residents right here in Montgomery County without jobs or any other means to support their families. Some of our neighbors live with constant challenge of how to feed their loved ones and how to pay rent or make mortgage payments to keep a roof over their heads. These neighbors can neither afford nor find day care for their children, who must learn from home because of the closure of all MCPS schools. US Government stimulus checks sent to all with incomes below \$75,000 per year provided some relief but could not eliminate the on-going and long-term economic effects of this pandemic. Those of us with the luxury of a stable income must reach out and do all we can to help those in need. Donate food, clothing, money, and whatever is needed to get our needy neighbors through this devastating and challenging time.

For the past 16 years, the Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association has made it one of its missions to reach out and help economically challenged families in Montgomery County by providing a special stimulus package of our own: a toolkit of school supplies for home use for each in-coming kindergartner and Head Start student who attended a Title I program called ELO SAIL (Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning). We were unable to provide these kits this past summer since Title I programs could not be held. It is our hope that schools will open soon and that the ELO SAIL program will resume in July. If this happens, we anticipate that the enrollment in this program will increase dramatically from previous years and the number of toolkits needed will most likely exceed 2,500. Therefore, we must step up our fund-raising efforts so that we can assemble as many toolkits as we possibly can. PLEASE invest in the hope of a better future for our county's needy children by sponsoring toolkits with a tax-deductible donation. Complete the form below, PLEASE make checks payable to MCPS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line, and mail it to the address provided on the form. Your sponsorship will be a special stimulus package for a very needy child here in Montgomery County. Thank you SO much for caring!

MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along was roolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton WAME:	
ADDRESS:	
I would like to sponsor # toolkits at \$10 per kit.	Donation enclosed: \$
Optional: In memory of In he	onor of
Send acknowledgement to	
Select one:e-mail me a receipt at	
mail me a receiptno rece	ipt is necessary
Do NOT include my name on the toolkits labels	

Welcome New Members

Joined in November 2020

6206 Darrowberry Ct., Glenn Dale, MD 20769-91260	301-543-0799
19302 Moon Ridge Rd., Germantown, MD 20876-1743	301-528-5402
1304 Windmill Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20905	301-236-9658
31985 Carneros Ave., Lewes, DE 19958-2501	240-475-5398
11810 Goodloe Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906	240-330-8885
14654 Wexhall Terr., Burtonsville, MD 20866	301-847-1885
4523 Chestnut St., Bethesda, MD 20814	301-318-7902
15705 Bradford Dr., Laurel, MD 20707-3260	301-538-9343
19 Turkey Foot Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-3645	301-977-4734
15105 Westbury Rd., Rockville, MD 20853	301-929-1514
7534 Broken Staff, Columbia, MD 21045	410-381-5515
7517 Holiday Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817-6611	301-320-3360
8419 Leno Pl., North Chesterfield, VA 23236	240-361-7381
10201 Carson Pl., Silver Spring, MD 20901	301-379-9359
	19302 Moon Ridge Rd., Germantown, MD 20876-1743 1304 Windmill Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20905 31985 Carneros Ave., Lewes, DE 19958-2501 11810 Goodloe Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906 14654 Wexhall Terr., Burtonsville, MD 20866 4523 Chestnut St., Bethesda, MD 20814 15705 Bradford Dr., Laurel, MD 20707-3260 19 Turkey Foot Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-3645 15105 Westbury Rd., Rockville, MD 20853 7534 Broken Staff, Columbia, MD 21045 7517 Holiday Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817-6611 8419 Leno Pl., North Chesterfield, VA 23236

MCPSRA Consumer Report by Reggie Ott

During this pandemic, scammer and fraud contacts are on the rise. A recent presentation by MRSPA on scams and frauds provided the following reminders:

- Scammers play on your emotions to extort money. They often use phishing scams as part of their ploy.
 (Phishing is the the practice of sending emails purporting to be from a reputable company in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.)
- Phishers repeatedly contact you as they try to wear you down so they can get personal information in order to extort money from you. Be aware and don't let it happen to you!
- Don't wire money to any agency if you are being asked to be deceptive or use a GreenDot card reference number, a gift card, or send a check from a call or contact that you did not initiate.
- Ignore purchasing medical kits or at-home testing kits from ads, phone solicitations.
- Don't offer personal information in response to calls from any source with which you are unfamiliar.

If you have been duped, report it to the MC Police Department or Consumer Fraud Unit in the Maryland States Attorney's office. Or contact MRSPA for assistance.

Keep yourself safe and healthy during these unusual times.

Reginald J Ott Consumer Education Chair

PROFILES IN RETIREMENT by Donna Hollingshead

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to hearing from the MCPSRA members! Please stay connected with other retirees sharing your latest news, "fun facts," or interesting stories. Your submission may be a few lines or up to one page and photos are requested to add interest. Note that submissions may be edited and shortened as space permits. Email your update and photos to dshollingshead@gmail.com or mail to D. Hollingshead, PO Box 4145, Frederick, MD 21705.

Catherine Long, Retired 2019: Principal, Ritchie Park Elementary School cathindc@rcn.com

I retired in July 2019. Shortly after that, I began volunteering with the Red Cross supporting families in DC who had fires in their homes. I've met wonderful volunteers and clients and find my education experiences quite handy; including mentoring and training people who came after me. We are currently experiencing a major change in our data collection and management tool. This put me on very familiar territory, so I am coaching and leading others in a time of technology change. 2020 brought many natural disasters. The Red Cross sent me to Houston after Hurricane Laura and Oregon after the wildfires to support those left homeless. I was so impressed by the strength and resilience our clients demonstrated after such devastating experiences.

A few months ago, I decided that COVID-19 was a good time to do something I've always wanted to do—learn how to play the piano. I have mastered The Donkey Song and I'm working on Frosty the Snowman. I'm sure Chopin is in my future!



Carol Solomon, Retired 2010: Wootton HS, Humanities Signature Program; Richard Montgomery HS, IB Magnet

Coordinator; Poolesville HS, Magnet English Teacher

cwsolomon19302@gmail.com

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Stories

Since retiring in 2010, I have immersed myself in writing and in volunteering. My latest volunteer effort is working with at-risk girls at Watkins Mill HS through the "Dream It, Be It" program, coordinated by Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery County. The program also operates at Gaithersburg HS, Quince Orchard HS, and Northwest HS. I highly recommend this women's organization for retired high school teachers.

In November 2020 my book *Love, Loss, & Ghosts,* a collection of short fiction, was published by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. It includes some stories set in Poolesville, where I taught for the final three years of my MCPS career, including the prize-winning story "The Fixer," which is about a high school registrar. I am currently doing book presentations via Zoom to senior groups and book clubs throughout Montgomery County. For more information, see www.carolwsolomon.com. My book is available in print and digital formats on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

MRSPA Fund Request for Donations – Raffle Drawing

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. In the past, funds for these scholarships and mini-grants were partially obtained through in-person sale of raffle tickets statewide. This year, that option is not available to us due to the pandemic. Therefore, we are seeking *donations* to the *MRSPA Fund* so that we can continue our work. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

To show our 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 when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2021 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$150 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$75:

Cooking, Spa, Wine Lover, Movie Night, and Sports Lover.

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

- 1. Make your check payable to The Community Foundation of Frederick County.
- 2. Write MRSPA Fund Donation 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 February 28, 2021.**

Will you send a donation today? Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail.

Please include the form below with your donation.



	MRSPA Fund Donation	
Your Name:	_	
Your Address:		
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members passed away in 2020:

JANUARY

Audrey M. Gwennap Laurence E. Jeweler Patricia A. Lewis C. William McCullough Julia W. O'Connor Sarah W. Steel Luther Roland Stemple

FEBRUARY

James A. Miers
Patricia A. Ondish
Dorothy M. Smith
Gary J. Spinella (husband of Michele)
Jack J. Talamo

MARCH

Ellen A. Gardiner
Ora E. Isaac
Shirley A. Melmed
Betty Jean Morgan
Shirley M. Serber
Donald E. Smith
Florence D. Snowden
Elissa Weinroth

APRIL

Peggy W. Anselmo Jean M. Fullenkamp Marguerite S. Hetrick Helen Jane Lundberg

MAY

Aileen L. Craig
Glen A. Doerrman
Joseph Loewe
Elaine R. Parker
Angelina Routy
June J. Thompson
Anne M. Tolley
Kent H. Weaver

JUNE

John E. Maley
James R. Purdum (husband of Lois)
Mary S. Swanson
William C. Wanatosky
Rose T. Weaver

<u>JULY</u>

Ester S. Feder Francis R. Lesneski

AUGUST

Mary C. Brake Marian E. Corrick Kathleen A. Fulcomer Sylvia H. Hudes Dolores A. Solyst Henry A. Yeager, Jr.

SEPTEMBER

Beverly W. Orloff Susan P. Riordan Diane E. Sausser Agnes S. Torossian

OCTOBER

Reid F. Allen
Carolyn R. Dodge
Paul M. Fulcomer (husband of Kathleen)
Darlys T. Graham
Nancy L. Perkins
George Usdansky
William M. Wilder

NOVEMBER

Helene P. Crystal Dorothy A. Laney Dreama W. Laroche Jean H. Read Barbara A. Zolkiewicz

DECEMBER

Robert E. Atwood Vernon P. Behanna Max R. Goff Jean B. Judd Anita L. Stopak Shirley M. Tabler

MCPSRA/MRSPA Application for Membership (Please Print)

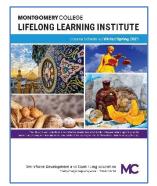
Name	Address	
City	_ State	 _ Zip code
Birth Date	_ Telephone #	
Fmail		

Please make your check payable to MRSPA. Annual dues for both MCPSRA and MRSPA are \$55 as of March 1, 2019. Mail to: MRSPA 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A Odenton, MD 21113-1508. To join online and pay with a credit card, go to mrspa.org, click on "Join or Renew" and fill out the form. For an automatic DEDUCTION from your retirement check, go to MRSPA.com, click on "Payroll Deduction" for a dues deduction authorization form to print, complete, and mail to the MRSPA Office. You will need to put your entire social security number on the form, not just the last four digits. If you would prefer not to mail your social security number, you may call the MRSPA Office at 410-551-1517 or toll-free at 877-625- 6782 to relay your number. You will still need to print and mail the authorization form with your signature. If you have any questions, please contact the MRSPA Office by email at mrspa@mrspa.org

The following is a Paid Advertisement.



Lifelong Learning Institute Winter/Spring Class Registration Now Open!



Zoom Classes in Real-Time! Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute offers daytime and evening courses in Art & Photography, Art History, Archaeology & World Cultures, Brain Fitness, Career Development, Computers & Technology, History & Current Events, Horticulture, Human & Natural Science, Music, Personal Enrichment, Personal Finance, and Wellness.

Over 40 new courses are offered this Winter/Spring, including: "Chicago: The Birthplace of Modern Architecture," "Notable African American Women Who Inspired and Motivated Change 1900-Present," "History of City States," "The House of Medici," "History of Modern China," "White Fragility and Systemic Racism," "Stravinsky: Innovative Revolutionary or Icon-Enigma," and many more. *Maryland residents 60+ pay fee only on courses eligible for tuition waiver.*

For the Winter/Spring Semester schedule including full descriptions, dates, and pricing, please visit: https://bit.ly/LLISpring2021

Lifelong Learning Institute Website www.montgomerycollege.edu/lifelonglearning

Registration information, contact Customer Service at 240-567-5188 or https://bit.ly/WDCE_RegistrationInformation

For questions or teaching opportunities email Natasha.Sacks@montgomerycollege.edu

Josiah Henson Museum & Park

Project Update by Lou D'Ovidio

Montgomery Parks Foundation reports that construction of the Museum building and the rehabilitation of the plantation owner's house is finished. The opening will be announced soon! Thank you for your financial

support. Your contributions to the Henson Project are matched by MCPSRA.

The grand opening /ribbon cutting, was planned for December 2020.

That didn't happen!

The current order from Montgomery County directs all museums be closed, so we are still waiting for the exact date.

Meanwhile, there is a video of Mia Lewis, a descendant of Rev. Henson, touring the project site. Here is the link: https://youtu.be/.QESZGnq1qSU

For more information visit:



The Josiah Henson Park Visitor Center/Museum nears completion.

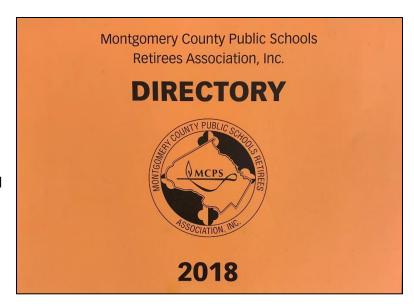
https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-park/

Make a contribution using the form below. Programs at the Henson site have served Title 1 schools and will be expanded.

MCPSRA-Henson Project Donation Form Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: "Montgomery County Parks Foundation") to MCPSRA Treasurer, Dr. Stephen Raucher, 5515 Manorfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853. NAME: ADDRESS:

A New MCPSRA Directory is Coming

We are planning to have our new membership directory ready this summer. Check your listing in the 2018 directory to make sure all your information is correct. Don't just verify your address, phone number, cell number, and email address. It's also important to include your middle name or middle initial. If you find errors, omissions, or changes you wish to make, please send the information to Juliette Trevino at igtrevino@comcast.net.



MCPSRA COMMUNITY BOARD

As a service to our members, The MCPSRA will include information in the newsletter regarding no-cost, community events and opportunities that are appropriate and may be of interest to retirees. Note that submissions may be edited, shortened, or excluded based as space permits. Events requiring a fee to participate will not be included on the Community Board, but may be submitted for consideration as an advertisement with an associated fee. Send items for consideration to dshollingshead@gmail.com or D.

Hollingshead, PO Box 4145, Frederick, MD 21705.

Montgomery County Grow It Eat It

18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855

Getting a Fresh Start in the Garden? Let the Montgomery County Master Gardeners teach you how to begin a new garden or refresh one from the ground up.



Go to their website at: https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/montgomery-county-master-gardeners

Here is one example of what they offer:

New Vegetable Gardener Workshop - FREE

Are you a new vegetable gardener looking for support throughout the growing season? Have you tried before but feel you need more support? Join our New Vegetable Gardener program that will give customized support throughout the growing season. This program will cover planning your garden, planting, pests and disease, and harvest with a customized zoom session, the speaker's series, and group email support. **Program Kicks-off February 20.**

Some Humorous Paraprosdokianisms

(Thanks to MCPSRA Member Skip Rideout.)

A Paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence, phrase, or larger discourse is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists such as Groucho Marx.

- ✓ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local YMCA's swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.
- ✓ Changed my password to "incorrect" so that when I forget my password my computer says "Your password is incorrect."
- ✓ Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- ✓ I'm great at multi-tasking—I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.
- √ Take my advice—I'm not using it.
- ✓ My wife and I were happy for twenty-five years; then we met.
- ✓ I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious.
- √ Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.
- ✓ Every time someone comes up with a foolproof solution, along comes a more-talented fool.
- √ Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.

- ✓ If you keep both feet firmly planted on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.
- ✓ A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.
- ✓ When I married Miss Wright, I had no idea her first name was Always.
- √ My wife got 8 out of 10 on her driver's test the other two guys managed to jump out of her way.
- √ There may be no excuse for laziness, but I'm still looking.
- ✓ Give me ambiguity or give me something else.
- √ Women sometimes make fools of men, but
 most guys are the do-it-yourself type.
- √ If at first you don't succeed, skydiving definitely is not for you.
- √ Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I
 let her sleep.
- If you have humorous items to include in future newsletters, please email them to russwright408@gmail.com

Montgomery County Public Schools MCPS Retirees Association, Inc. P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 201 Suburban, MD

DATED MATERIAL



MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting NORMANDIE FARM

Gathering: 11:00 a.m.; Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.; Luncheon: 12:00 Noon; Program 1:00 p.m.

February 18, 2021
Cancelled due to COVID-19

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in October, December, February, April, and June.
This is the February, 2021 issue.