

ECHOES

Vol. LI No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2017

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks



Happy New Year!

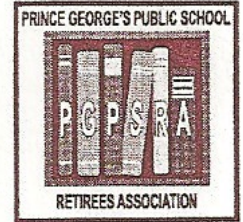
By the time you receive this issue of Echoes you will have filled up with Thanksgiving turkey and enjoyed your family and friends during the Holiday Season. We will have a new President of the United States and political officers will be replaced. Speaking of new officers, Mary Isbell, our immediate past president is in the process of preparing a new slate of officers for the 2017 year. The Committee chairs are continuing to do a fantastic job this year. We are looking for volunteers to chair an office or committee. or give us ideas of new committees you would like to start to help us stay vibrant. Please see Mary Isbell for more information.

Our November meeting was great! Gretel James enlightens us with an inspirational reading of "Meditation on hope and love in a Time of Struggle." Our Crafts and Hobby Display was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed their collections at our November meeting. Do you know what a **geocache** is? If not contact Don Conway. He along with eight other members displayed their hobbies and creative crafts.

We had three guest speakers at our November meeting. President, Frances Miller and Executive Director, Shachar Weizman who came to bring us greetings from MRSPA. Ms. Miller is a vibrant, energetic person. She spoke of how we have to keep our local going by involving new members by thinking outside the box to invigorate members who don't usually attend the meetings. Mr. Weizman showed us how he is saving the organization thousands of dollars by operating the webpage in house. He has made the webpage interactive for our members. He invited us to log on to the new webpage to see all the new information available to the members. We also had Secretary Rona Kramer from the Maryland Department of Aging. She explained to us some of the resources the Department of Aging have available for caretakers. Our guests were gracious enough to stay for the entire meeting, enjoy lunch and interact with the members to answer questions. They stated they truly enjoyed the meeting especially the crafts display. Our guest learned how to find a **geocache** and they may start a new hobby.

Our January meeting will again be held at PGCEA Office in Forestville, Maryland. We are trying to have different speakers at each meeting to inform us of new information or resources for retired employees. Every meeting we are hoping that you will learn something new. Again we are open to all retired school employees in Prince Georges County. Reach out and bring a retiree to the next meeting. Don't forget you may be the lucky person to win the monetary door prize. Stay safe and try to keep warm in the coming months and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 25, 2017.

Brenda Barnes, President



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BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD, will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 6th; Betty Bailey of Greensboro, NC, will be having her 90th birthday on the 11th; and Adele Talbot of Adelphi, will be marking her 90th birthday on the 14th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring, will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 7th; Mr. James Rudert of Chesapeake Beach, MD, will be turning 91 years-old on the 11th; Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring, will be having her 98th birthday on the 14th; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, WV, will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 19th; Mrs. Gwendolyn Sollers of Suitland, will be having her 95th birthday on the 25th; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville, will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 29th.

Dorothy McGinniss retired from Roger B. Taney Jr High School in 1980. She now lives in a senior retirement facility in Wilmington, NC. There, she participates in a knitting group and a craft work group. Over the years, Dorothy has enjoyed travels to 23 countries, as well as, Hawaii and Alaska. She has two daughters, four grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. One of Dorothy's daughters is also a retired Prince George's County teacher, Cheryl Clark, who lives in Leland, NC.

Georgia McGraw retired from Buck Lodge Middle School in 1999. Her husband, Patrick (Pat), also retired from Prince George's County, where he was a principal at Phyllis Williams Elementary. Georgia and Pat relocated to The Villages, FL, in 2010. While Georgia enjoys golf, bridge, and tap dancing, Pat enjoys golf, and entertaining their neighbors with playing his keyboard, deejaying, and karaoke singing at driveway parties. (Sounds like they are having a fun time in Florida!) The McGraws have River Cruised from Paris to Normandy (2016), and cruised on rivers in Europe to Prague (2015). Georgia and Pat recently celebrated 55 years together. They have two children and three grandchildren.

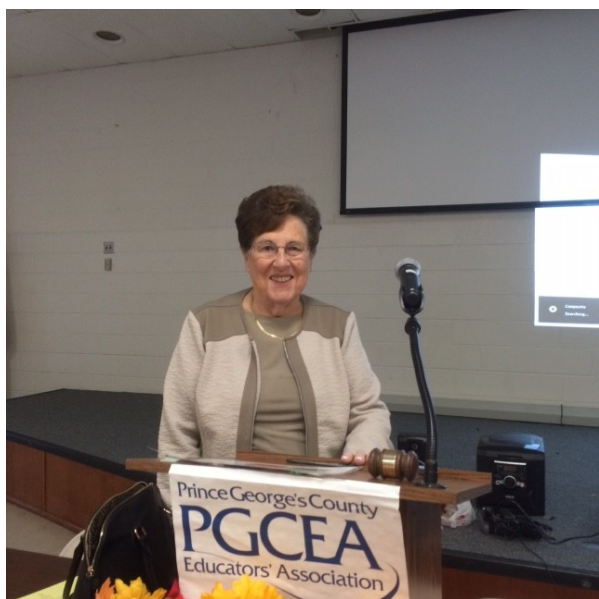
Janet Menassa, a former Pre-kindergarten/ Head Start teacher, retired from Gladys Noon Spellman School in 1997. She and her husband, George, live in a retirement community in Ashburn, VA. There, Janet sings with a community chorus, leads a book discussion group, and is studying sign language. The Menassas have enjoyed many travels. They have taken numerous cruises, including the Panama Canal, the Mediterranean, South America, and most recently to Antarctica and Alaska. They have also taken paddle-wheel boat trips on the Mississippi and Columbia Rivers, and visited National Parks in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. They have taken part in 14 Elderhostels and visited Hawaii twice! Janet and George are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. They have a son, who is a professional counselor, and a daughter, who is an architect, and four grandchildren.

Beverly Spencer McKinney of Upper Marlboro, retired from Potomac High School as a professional school counselor in 2011. She works as a substitute teacher sometimes, volunteers at an Adult Day Care Center, and loves spending time reading. She also enjoys traveling, and does so as much as possible. Beverly and her husband, Rev. Dr. Michael McKinney (retired), celebrated a wedding anniversary in December. They have four grandchildren.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: jannetteWndrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324



MRSPA Executives visit PGPSRA



MRSPA President: Frances (Fay) Miller



MRSPA Executive Director: Shachar Weizman



Secretary Rona Kramer's Visit



It was a pleasure to have Department of Aging Secretary Rona Kramer speak with us at our November 16th meeting. She is a very vibrant, energetic lady, whose enthusiasm for keeping seniors healthy and safe is evident. She is a native of Montgomery County, attended public schools, the University of Maryland, where she earned a BA degree in law enforcement, went on to receive a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, immediately became involved in community affairs, serving on numerous committees, was elected as a Maryland Senator from 2003 until 2011, when she and her brother, Delegate Ben Kramer (District 19) worked together in Annapolis to pass laws for the safety and well-being of seniors, and though she is a Democrat, was appointed by Governor Hogan to serve as the Maryland Secretary of Aging in 2015. Secretary Kramer encouraged everyone to follow a healthy diet, exercise (even moderately), and stay socially involved. She emphasized that there is help for disabled seniors and those needing assistance with health care for themselves or family members, by contacting the Prince George's Health Department/ Department of Aging Office. Also, there is a state-wide system called MAP (Medical Access Program) that you may contact online to learn where to get specific services of doctors, home care, support for hearing and disabled individuals, etc. Meals on Wheels and local Senior Centers are also administered under the Maryland Department of Aging. Secretary Kramer very graciously gave of her time following our meeting to speak individually with persons who had specific questions. She personifies her slogan of "Live Well – Age Well".



REMEMBRANCE

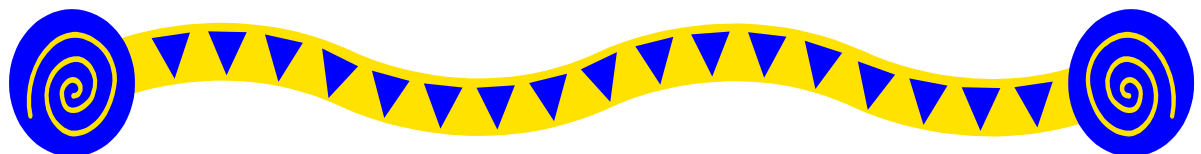
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Rosemary Brinkley	10/21/2016
Ann Burt	05/22/2016
Nancy Ann DePlatchett	10/14/2016
Joseph Francis Ennis	09/25/2016
Mary Jean Jefferson	10/17/2016
Matthew (Matt) Karnes	08/23/2016
James E. Kern	12/25 2015
Pamela Miller	08/26/2016
Cassandra Cecile	10/11/2016
Lloyd K. Hoover	11/03/2016

Jannie Goldston Chair

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 Past President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 President-Elect: George Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)
 Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler
 (maryakaroyall@aol.com)
 (lindabl1217@verizon.net)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net) and George Denny
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret2@msn.com)
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (J3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter/Programs: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Public Relations: George Denny
 Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) and Alveta Jones
 (alvetajones@verizon.net)



MEMBERSHIP

Helping Hands Need-

ed

The Officers and Committee Chairs want to plan for 2017-2018 and we are asking members for their input. Please send your feedback:

1. online to cyljacob37@gmail.com Subject MEMBERSHIP
2. by USPS: MEMBERSHIP/ Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729
3. bring to our January Meeting.

- _____
- A. Why I attend PGPSRA meetings _____
 - B. What I like about our meetings _____
 - C. New Activities I would like added that I would participate in outside of meetings _____
 - D. Programs I would like to have during the meetings _____
 - E. Reasons others have given for not attending meetings _____
 - F. What I would like to see in ECHOES _____

Because many PGPSRA members are not local we still need your thoughts so let us know what are some of the activities groups in your areas are doing that you feel PGPSRA might consider _____

****Comments you would like to add _____

YOU -THE MEMBERS- ARE PGPSRA! Thanks for lending your helping hands to letting us know what YOU WANT!

Hope your Holiday Season was enjoyable and you are having a HAPPY NEW 2017 YEAR!

Charline Jacob- Membership Chair

Don Conway and his Geocaches



Carol Newman Sews!



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Our "team" has been hard at work partnering with their selected schools for the 2016-2017 year. Thus far, we have furnished school uniforms, underwear, socks, school supplies, polo shirts, and food baskets. We are on target for scheduled projects. We thank all who continue to support us.

The team hopes to surpass the 2015-2016 year of assistance. Please assist in any area:

- ◆ School Supplies (K-8)
- ◆ Newly Purchased Coats for K-8 Students (boys/girls)
- ◆ Donations (monetary)

You may bring coats/supplies to our general meetings or call me, Ethel L. Brown, at 202 581 0740.

The next Community Service meeting will be held on February 1, 2017 at PGCEA Center at 11:00 am.

Ethel Brown, Chairman

"TOGETHER, EVERYONE MAKES THE DREAM WORK"

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER – 2016

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$18102.80
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3028.78

ACTIVITY:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	450.08
EXPENDITURES	-	2211.53

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

CLOSING BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	16341.35
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3028.78
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$19370.13

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer



Charles Hudson and his Teams



VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

If you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr. Vest

DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your MRSPA website
for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!



Hats Off to PGPSRA's Newest MSCHF Inductees

October 27, 2016 at Michael's Eight Avenue in Glen Burnie fifty-two (52) PGPSRA guests attended the 2016 Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) to witness our own esteemed honorees Loraine Johnson and Dr. Norma Martof Inducted into the MSCHF. Both are former presidents of PGPSRA and extremely active in many volunteer organizations.

In addition to the plethora of loyal, supportive, and faithful PGPSRA members who attended, both Lorraine and Norma brought special guests indicative of their volunteer organizations and family. Members of the educational sorority, Delta Kappa Gamma – Theta Chapter were present as were church members, and notables from the City of Bowie who honored Norma on November 7, 2016 with a proclamation for her 25 plus years of service on City committees and the Bowie Health Center Board.

It is truly an honor to be selected for induction into the MSCHF for a life time of volunteering as the MSCHF selects 49 honorees annually. Congratulations to Lorraine and Norma!



Lorraine accepts her certificate.



Norma accepts her certificate.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the November Executive Committee meeting, members accepted the recommendation from the Scholarship Committee to again sponsor the 50/50 raffle at all meetings beginning in November and that envelopes be placed on tables at luncheon meetings, giving members the option of making financial contributions to the Scholarship Committee. Cost for the 50/50 raffle is \$ 2.00 for one ticket and \$ 5.00 for three tickets.

2017 scholarship applications are scheduled to be delivered to the Prince George's county high schools during the week of December 9th. Volunteers are needed to call guidance counselors to check on their receiving them. If interested, contact Delores Brown or me. (See e-mail address in ECHOES, page 4 .) THANKS!!!

Alveta Jones and Delores Brown, Co-Chairs



NORMA



Councilman Michael Esteve presenting proclamation to Dr. Norma Martof for her volunteer service on the City of Bowie Education Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Bowie Health Center Board.

LEGISLATIVE TRIP!!

Be sure to check the details in the Legislative Report on page 9.

MARCH 9, 2017

Especially if you've never been!
Repeaters Welcome....make it
an annual

SIGN UP NOW



Legislative Report

On Thursday November 10, 2016, Brenda Barnes, Lorraine Johnson, Jannette Wundrow, Elsie Fletcher and Sue Finan attended the MRSPA Legislative workshop in Annapolis. Speakers included MRSPA President Frances Miller, Legislative Chair Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide Vera Torrence, Federal Relations Director, National Council on Teacher Retirement Leigh Snell, Secretary of Budget and Management David Brinkley, Teresa Lochte from the State Retirement and Pension office, Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp and MRSPA Executive Director Shachar Weizman.

Their presentations focused on the need for us to be vigilant. We must watch policies concerning Defined Benefits and Health Care. Become familiar with the new MRSPA website, a great way to stay informed. Education throughout the state is a top priority and Governor Hogan is making necessary contributions to the Pension System which is now 70% funded. We were assured that a teacher who is starting a full career today will have pension benefits throughout their retirement.

A great way for you as a PGPSRA member to show your interest is to attend our Legislative Trip to Annapolis on Thursday March 9, 2017. We leave PGCEA in the morning arriving by bus to Annapolis to view an introductory film, sit in on The House and Senate, Tour Historic Rooms and The Governor's Mansion. We join together for luncheon and visits from our Legislators. We return to PGCEA by 2:30. The cost of transportation, luncheon and room fee is provided for by our budget. So, you have already paid for this great day. Sign up is available at our meetings or you may send an email to Sue Finan at sfinan77@gmail.com

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 25, 2017 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$10.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the 18 mail delivery!)**

Box Lunch

NOTE: INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

**IF THE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN ON A DELAYED SCHEDULE,
THE MEETING WILL BE HELD. IF THE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED,
THE MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE
DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE.**

PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest
7908 Klovstad Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

Next Meeting

January 25, 2017

PGCEA Center, Forestville

11:00 a.m.

