

# ECHOES

Vol. LV No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2021

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

From the President:



If you are reading this, you survived 2020--virus, elections, the holiday blues and all--and have a brand new year ahead of you.

January is named after Janus, the Roman deity who guarded doorways and gates, and who was represented with two faces, so that he looked forward and backward. I don't know about you, but I am not good at driving while looking in my rearview mirror, so we are going to leave the past behind and look to the future.

The guest speaker for the virtual PGPSRA January 27 General Meeting will be discussing the importance of making a will before your family needs it. Please note the registration form for

the meeting that is printed in this issue. If you wish to "attend," you will need to send your name and email address to the email address noted on the form. More information will be provided to those who register.

Many of our members have been sending in donations to the Scholarship and Community Service Committees for use with their efforts. We appreciate your generosity. Despite the handicaps caused by the virus those committees are still working to find ways to serve our community, and your donations will be put to good use.

Looking ahead, we will have General Meetings on March 24 and May 19 or 26. The exact May date is yet to be determined. The meetings may or may not be virtual, depending on how things go.

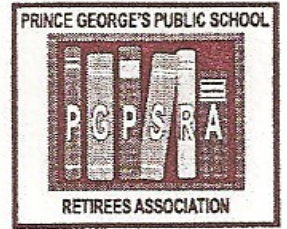
PGPSRA continues to work with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) to insure that due diligence is given to protecting our retirement pensions. We hope that you will encourage retirees you know who are not members to join PGPSRA and MRSPA as soon as possible.

Please remember that you can visit our organization website at any time of the day or night. That address is [pgpsra.org](http://pgpsra.org) and there you will find copies of past newsletters, calendars, photographs and a lot more interesting information. Also feel free to visit the MRSPA website at [mrspa.org](http://mrspa.org)

Thank you for every act of kindness you have shown to fellow retirees and other residents of our community. Please continue to be safe and be strong.

Meanwhile, I leave you with this quote from Anne Frank. "What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet."

Thanks and Best Wishes,  
George D. Denny, Jr., President



Contents	
President's Report	1
Bits and Pieces	2-3
B&P Cont's	3
Legislative	3
Reservation	4
Scholarships	5
Community Service	5
Remembrance	6
Treasurer's Report	6



## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Ms. Hilda Rubin of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 2nd; **Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be marking her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>**; Ms. Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington will be having her 92nd birthday on the 7th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be turning 95 years-old on the 11<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Helen Brewer of Waldorf will be observing her 91st birthday on the 22nd; Ms. Delores Smith of Huntingtown will be having her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 23rd; Mrs. Doris Hall of Upper Marlboro will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 28<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Beverly West of Annapolis will be reaching her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 30th.

Happy **February** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be having her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mildred Mitchell of Washington, D.C. will be marking her 91st birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be turning 96 years-old, while Jewell Greer of El Paso, TX. will be observing a 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.VA. will be celebrating her 98th birthday in the 19<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be having her 94th birthday on the 25th; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be marking her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Lillie James of Ft. Washington retired in 2003 from Overlook Elementary as a Library Media Specialist. Following her retirement, she worked as a substitute at public libraries in the county, but mainly at the Oxon Hill Branch Library. Lillie is an active member of the Friends of the Oxon Hill Branch Library, where she volunteers in the Friends Bookstore. She has also volunteered at Eva Turner Elementary in Charles County, where her niece and nephews attended. Lillie is an active member of the PGPSRA Community Service Committee. She enjoys traveling (an understatement!), walking, reading, attending the theater, and spending time with family and friends. Since retirement Lillie has traveled extensively within the United States to AK, AZ, HI, ME, MA, participated in a Civil Rights Tour through GA, AL, MS, AR, TN, and NC, visited Mt. Rushmore, and taken a Cross Country train trip. She has traveled out of the country, as well, to Australia, Cambodia, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Iceland, Italy, England, France, Spain, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey. Lillie has also enjoyed cruises to the Mediterranean, the Eastern and Western Caribbean.

Eugene Thomas retired after 30 years as a regular classroom teacher and a teacher of learning-disabled children. However, he has had several careers before and after retiring. The first was as a library assistant at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. After four years he signed up as a medical corpsman/specialist in the Army National Guard. Eugene acquired an undergraduate and two graduate degrees from Bowie State College and the University of Virginia. In 1972, he was one of twenty teachers selected from four different universities to participate in a six-week study in Ghana, Africa, titled "West African Cultures", which resulted in a book. In 1995, Thomas completed a program of theological education from the School of Theology at the University of the South. He then became involved leading many church activities at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in New Carrollton and Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Dunnellon, FL. He is Chaplain in the Dunnellon American Legion, Masons, and Eastern Star. Eugene is a member and historian for the Marion County Master Gardeners and a tutor/mentor for the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center. He has traveled extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Africa, as well as, the Caribbean Sea. At the present time, Eugene lives in Ocala, FL. with his soul mate, Anne Marie, and their beloved cats Timmy and Tracy. He has one son, William, and Daniel, who is like a second son, with whom he developed a special bond over the years.

Adrienne Cannon of Springfield, VA. retired from Eleanor Roosevelt High School as a Spanish and Italian teacher in 1996. She immediately began volunteering as a member of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/Women's' Committee, as a Tour Guide and assisting with Children's Concerts (Instrument Petting Zoos, Young People's Concerts, Family Concerts). For a number of years, Adrienne has performed as a clarinetist with the Northern Virginia Alexandria Campus Wind Band, the Mount Vernon Community Band and Windjammers - the Circus Band of Sarasota, FL. She has spent several winter months attending the annual Windjammers Convention, where she plays for the circus acrobats of the Circus Arts Conservatory. However, this year she is participating in a virtual performance that requires making a video at home and sending the digital file to be synchronized with all of the players. Adrienne has written two published volumes of essays: "Journey" and "Grace Notes". She has also enjoyed multiple trips with Road Scholar and OAT, including to her mother's home in Puglia, Italy, to Israel, to Los Angeles where she helped to decorate floats for a Rose Bowl parade, to the Chautauqua Institute in New York State, to the Grand Canyon and Mt. Rushmore, to the Baltic States and Turkey. Pending, is a planned cruise from Athens to Venice on the Adriatic Sea, and a river cruise from Paris to the Normandy Beaches. Adrienne is also the publicity person for the Democratic Club of Greenspring, and she writes a monthly article for "The Villager". This task involves interviewing local political representatives. Adrienne's family includes three grown children and two grandchildren.

Cont'd page: 3

### Bits and Pieces, cont'd

George Johnson of Hagerstown retired from James McHenry Elementary in 1987. His primary interest since retiring has been writing. George has been a member of the Desert Rose Café Writers' Group for eight years. He has written and had published two books of fiction. Just this past fall, he had a three-book series of short stories published - titles can be viewed at Amazon. George and his wife, Sharon, have been married 63 years. They have five children, 13 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. The Johnsons celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a memorable Mediterranean cruise to the Greek Islands. They have also visited family in Spain (three times) and enjoyed a cruise to Alaska. George and Sharon are trailer camping enthusiasts, who have traveled the U.S.A. to all states except two.

Thomas Alexander of Cheltenham retired from Baden Elementary in 1992. Since retirement, he has worked as Controller at Electric Security Services, Inc. in Upper Marlboro. Thomas celebrated his 80th birthday in December, but plans to continue working. He has one son, Sean, who teaches at Jemicy School in Baltimore. He also has two teenage grandchildren. Last year Thomas enjoyed having lunch with several former Baden teachers, which was a lot of fun.

\*\*\*To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact Jannette Wundrow at:  
JannetteWundrow@comcast.net



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

In spite of the many challenges facing us today, our Legislative goals, reflecting the MRSPA goals, remain the same. They include:

Pension protection now and ensuring sustainability of the pension fund.

Protection of seniors and vulnerable adults from identity theft, fraud and scams.

Addressing the rising cost of long term health care.

Bringing technology programs to all seniors assuring them the ability to always stay connected.

In the July 2020 Maryland State Retirement and Pension System "News and Notes" Executive director R. Dean Kenderdine states:

"I would like to address a misconception that rears its head at times like these: the fear that the state is going to "raid" the pension fund. Be assured that the System's assets are not the state's piggy-bank. The assets of your System are held in trust for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to the members and their beneficiaries. As a result, the state is not permitted to use System trust assets for other purposes. The trust is secure, and the assets are there to provide benefits to those who have earned them."

PGPSRA is not planning our annual Legislative trip to Annapolis in March 2021. We will keep you informed as to how you can continue to be active participants in the legislative process.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

## RESERVATIONS FOR JANUARY

Our January 27 General Membership meeting will be held virtually! Due to this COVID-19 pandemic and the need to “distance” there is not a venue that will allow us to meet safely.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than Jan. 20 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 27th. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting

Ed Vest .....[homevest552@comcast.net](mailto:homevest552@comcast.net)

We hope you will be able to join us. We are planning to have Nicole Slaughter join our meeting. Norma has heard her before and tells us that she has great advice to share on issues that we need to tend to as we age. We're all doing that, so be sure to join in our Zoom.



**CAN  
YOU  
BELIEVE IT?**



Our member, Almeta Jones turned 95 this year! Her birthday was on April 25th and we are wishing her many more! Her family celebrated at the family house due to covid-19 and mandatory stay-at-home orders. Her family and PGPSRA honor her contributions to education in Prince George's County. She is an Emeritus member and has held many positions. Most notably she was the President and a longstanding Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Her daughter, Vera Davis retired in 2017 and is continuing her legacy by being a member of the Scholarship Committee.

All of us send her our love and appreciation!



### Two Inspiring Quotes

“The most important things in your home are people.” Marge McCallister

“We don't quit playing because we grow old....we grow old because we quit playing.” Ray Stiner

**Dan Williams, Inspiration Chair**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Unfortunately, we are still fighting the COVID-19 Virus. Hopefully by spring we will be able to meet face to face again.

The Prince George's Scholarship Foundation, Inc. which will assist our Committee in screening eligible candidates met recently and determined the applications will be on the newly created website by the second week of December. If you know of any seniors in the PG County School System interested in education refer them to their school counselor or to the website to complete the application.

([www.PGCScholar.org](http://www.PGCScholar.org))

Our new scholarship "mini grants" for employees of Prince George's is off to a great start. This grant will support staff for their special projects for their students. We have twelve qualified applicants. We will meet soon to select our winners. More news to come in the next Echoes.

We received several donations to our Committee to assist us to help more students. If you know of any seniors in the County looking for scholarships refer them to our website.([www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)).

Again a special thank you for all the donations received for the Scholarship Committee since October.

Brenda Barnes, Chair

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

*COMMUNITY SERVICE MEMBERS CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO WORK WITH J. FRANK DENT ELEMENTARY, FOREST HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY, FORT FOOT ELEMENTARY, BRANDYWINE ELEMENTARY AND SURRATTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. THEY ARE FINDING TEACHERS HAVE LITTLE TIME TO FOCUS ON SPECIAL NEEDS TO ENHANCE THEIR VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR STUDENTS DUE TO LITTLE TIME ALLOTTED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.*

*BETTY NICHOLSON, HOWEVER, HAS HAD SUCCESS. HER CONTACT PERSON, THE PRINCIPAL OF FORT FOOT ELEMENTARY MET WITH HER TEACHERS AND ASKED WHAT THEY WANTED. THEY DESIRED INDIVIDUAL CLASS LIBRARIES OR LITERACY CENTERS, BASIC FACTS CARDS AND HEADSETS TO ENHANCE THEIR VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM. THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE OF PGPSRA ARE BEING USED.*

*WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO ASSIST TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN VIRTUAL LEARNING CLASSES THIS 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR AND WE APPRECIATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR PGPSRA MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US SERVE THESE SCHOOLS DURING THIS PANDEMIC.*

*THANK YOU,  
CHAIRMAN: COURTNEY PRINGLE*

## MRSPA Needs our Help



In order to help with their annual scholarship drive, we are asked to make the donations “distantly”. It will work as before, with each \$10 donation earning you one ticket. To do so:

- Make your check payable to **The Community Foundation of Frederick County**
- Write **MRSPA Fund Donation** on the FOR line
- Date and **sign** your check
- **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **Before February 28, 021**

Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail. Tickets will be mailed to you.

.....  
· **MRSPA Fund Donation**

· Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

· Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

· Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

· Email Address for Receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

### Remembrance

- Richie Scott 09/24
- James D. Brown 09/27
- Beverly Linde 09/23
- Judith Russ 10/19
- Robert West 10/22
- Shirley Marks 11/05
- William D. Downey 08/13/2019
- Raymond Karbett
- Gloria Deyo

**Jayne Johns and Linda Butler, Chairs.**

### TREASURER’S REPORT – NOVEMBER – 2020

OPENING BALANCES:  
 CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$31694.48  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.86

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:  
 RECEIPTS - 1020.27  
 EXPENDITURES - 1473.52

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

CLOSING BALANCES:  
 CHECKING ACCOUNT - 31241.23  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.86  
 TOTAL ASSETS - \$31368.09

Respectfully Submitted,  
Edward N. Vest

**Charline Yvonne Lewis Jacob  
Membership Chair  
Prince George's Public School Retirees Association 2013 - 2019**

When I said "I will" to the president's position  
I knew I needed leaders to serve without condition  
The entire term of service that I chose  
And would not desert when calamity arose.

A leader taps an individual to serve  
And prays that his/her choice would not disturb  
Or set the program's goal off its track  
And deal it a tremendous set-back.

Charline was chosen for the membership task  
Because I knew her dependability would last  
There was no hesitancy on her part  
When her assistance and creativity, I sought.

She would not say "Yes" out loud  
And conveniently disappear in the security of a crowd.  
She was forthright and honest about the job to be done  
And graciously accepted the task she had won.

She set about to execute a plan  
That would enable membership's goal to

stand

She planned with her committee, in detail  
Lest inactivity would cause it to fail.

Always pleasant with a winning smile  
She communicated well with adult and child.  
Her hard work inspired others to do the same  
And PGPSRA Membership growth was its gain.

Dedication, devotion, and attention to task  
Defined a legacy that is sure to last  
And displays for others what is required  
When a position is accepted and desired.

She was a Christian lady, she served her God  
By performing service and praising her Lord.

We thank Him for her service to all  
When need beckoned, she answered the call.

**by Lorraine Williams Johnson**

***Soli Deo Gloria***

## PGPSRA

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Bonnie Curry Brose  
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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

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### **It's Election Time!**

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the upcoming year for the following positions:

President-Elect (2 years)

Recording Secretary (1 year)

Corresponding Secretary (1 year)

Treasurer (1 year)

If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee. Thank you.

**VISIT THESE WEBSITES [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)**

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

To get the latest, quickest news.