

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXI No. 2

November 2001

A LETTER THAT WAS WRITTEN TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Prince George's County Retired Teachers association held its first General Membership Meeting of this school year on September 26, 2001 - approximately two weeks after the devastating September 11th terrorist attacks on our nation.

The opening ceremonies centered around the pledge of allegiance, an invocation of thankfulness and remembrance that was read by one of the members, and a paper that was read in unison entitled: "I Am the Flag of the United States of America".

It was obvious that each member of the assembly had reacted to the horrific news in his or her own personal and private way, and that many had already attempted to contribute something meaningful to help alleviate the widespread feelings of anguish, pain, and sorrow.

It was within this atmosphere of renewed patriotism that a motion was made for our Association to donate \$1000.00 to the work of the American Red Cross. It was approved with the hope that the money could help ease the burden of the suffering wherever it was needed.

On behalf of all of our members,

Robert B. Miller, President
PGCRTA

Excerpts of the paper entitled:

"I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up at me and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth, and justice.

I stand for freedom. I am confident.

I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,

my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.

I bow to no one! My colors do not run.

I am recognized all over the world.

I am saluted. I am loved.

I am revered, and I am respected.

Know me, I was there. I led my troops.

I was dirty, battle worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been soiled upon, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free.

It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hours are yet to come!

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Le Fontaine Bleu

See details inside

Celeste Williams, President PGCEA, brought greetings to our meeting on September 26th, and invited the audience to join her in reading this paper.

IN MEMORIAM

Members:

Ellen Abrahamson	?
Karen E. Alexander	?
Charles C. Bryce	9-05-01
Martha H. Christensen	6-07-01
Mabel S. Crittenden	?
Virginia D. Davis	8-03-01
Dorothy Harvey	9-08-01
Helen Kesby	8-04-01
Howard F. Michelsen	?
Anthony G. Randolph	8-07-01

Non Members:

Barbara R. Alton	8-20-01
Shirley L. Bauer	9-15-01
Eloise J. Burgin	8-04-01
Dorothy B. Capener	9-06-01
Albert E. Carlton	5-14-01
Mary L. Exum	7-24-01
Deborah E. Falkenburg	8-25-01
Theresa Jacobson	8-04-01
Ruth L. Kramer	7-27-01
Lorton Layman	8-26-01
Katherine M. Mann	7-30-01
Thelma Mosley	9-17-01
Barbara Ann Pierre	7-25-01
Joan R. Powell	7-24-01
Vera Ramage	8-15-01
Patricia Schaar	7-21-01
Anna M. Sommers	9-07-01
Edward E. Spiker	8-12-01
Delores C. Spriggs	8-28-01
Milford Spruill	8-27-01
Ellie L. Thomas	8-20-01
Percy R. Tolson	8-04-01
Robert L. Woods	8-30-01

A GRANDPARENT'S VIEW

As a grandparent whose mission is love,
I cannot understand
A mind so full of hate that some will kill on demand.
I do understand the rescuers: police, and fire
And citizens, who were motivated by a desire
To save and help the living;
and respectively care for the dead
And start cleaning up the mess not knowing the
hazzards ahead.

Then we remember the other heros in the fourth
hi-jacked plane
Who rebelled and diverted it from its path insane,
And with finesse and bravery caused it to abort
So wherever the terrorists were to hit,
they came up short.

I was happy when our leaders
and our nation turned to prayer
The service at the Cathedral with Billy Graham
(and our former presidents were there)
Was a wonderful happening! I feel pride and joy
Hearing "God Bless America" sung by all:
man, woman, girl, and boy.

So in our prayers we ask, Lord, bless us
and to our leaders give
Wisdom so that we can in love and freedom live.
Let us stress LOVE and free us from hate and shame
We must not judge or on the innocent lay the blame.
Perhaps our world would be a better place
If we would listen and talk face to face.

So Lord, help America make the best choice
And keep us listening for your still small voice
And make all terrorism cease
That the whole world can live in peace.

Mary Jane James Harns
Former Principal

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair,
Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is
hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on.
She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for
membership has passed on.

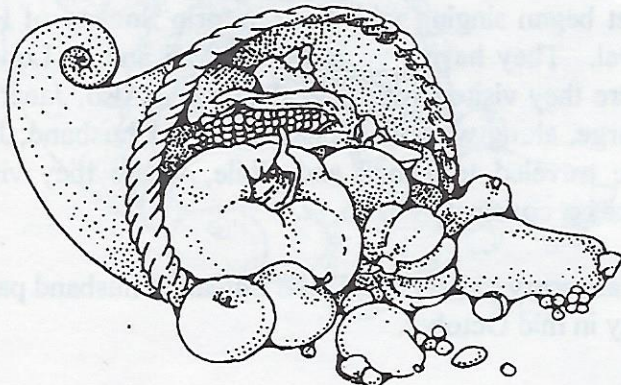
Hannah Spencer and her husband, Mack, are both enjoying their retirements. They sometimes take weekend trips to cities in nearby states and in winter, look forward to spending time at their vacation home in Brandon, FL. Hannah is very proud of her two children's educational accomplishments: her daughter, Desiree' Stamps, was recently named "Teacher of the Year" in Calvert County, and her son, Honore', an Air Force Captain, is now assistant professor at South Florida University. Hannah and Mack have an exciting spring trip to Israel and Egypt, complete with a cruise down the Nile River.

Doris Yowell volunteers at the District Heights Police Department two days a week and at the Spaulding Branch of the Prince George's County Library on another day each week.

June Readen, Pat Dumais, Dottie Futzko, and Veronica Jones were the "stars" of our PGCRTA September luncheon meeting in Forestville. These four ladies put together the delicious luncheon that they presented on patriotic-decorated tables. The home-made cakes they served were a special tasty treat. (Our THANKS, Ladies!)

We are pleased to announce that Alveta Jones, has accepted the position of President-Elect for this year's term, 2001-2002.

Make the following change on your calendar: the March 28, 2002 membership meeting date has been changed to March 20, 2002. The school system will be on vacation the week of March 28th, and it was thought our members would be otherwise occupied.



PGCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING

November 28, 2001

La Fontaine Bleu
7963 Annapolis Road
Lanham, MD 20706

11:00 am Meeting

12:00 PM Buffet Luncheon
Luncheon reservations required
\$16.00 per person

Menu

Fruit Flame'

Chicken Scampi
Roast Top Round of Beef
Fried Flounder

Two Vegetables

Pumpkin Pie

DEADLINE for reservations -Wednesday
November 21, 2001

Send reservations with check payable to
PGCRTA to:

Mrs. V.W. Stufft
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

Clip and return with your check:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to Alveta and Fred Jones, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 18, 2001. Family, friends, and 1951 wedding participants gathered at Martin's Crosswinds to help them celebrate this joyous occasion, the theme of which was "By God's grace, two flames still aglow". After the renewing of their vows and recalling memories from the past and present, everyone wished Alveta and Fred many more years of health and happiness.

Congratulations also, to Mary and Prattis Brewington, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2001, with a very nice affair hosted by their children. After retiring, Mary and her husband moved to Federalsburg, on the Maryland's Eastern Shore. They enjoy traveling and have been to several places, including Hawaii, Aruba, The Canary Islands, St Maarten, Las Vegas, and most recently, Williamsburg, VA.

It's a small world! Mary Brewington is on Jan Wundrow's sister's mail route. Gladys Prattis, grandmother of Mary Brewington, was head of the school cafeteria at Jan Wundrow's grade school on the Eastern Shore.

Helen Butler attended her 45th Armstrong High School reunion in Richmond, VA, over the Labor Day weekend. It was an enjoyable, reminiscent occasion.

Maud and Joseph Pinkney went on a tour through Connecticut in August, and also visited at Martha's Vineyard.

Nick Poulis has been enjoying teaching ESOL classes at Montgomery Junior College for the past 14 years.

Donald Wilson and Addie Martin are Bowie State University alumni. Donald is also an avid golfer, and will be the director of this year's May 2002 Annual Bulldog Golf Tournament. Addie will be serving as co-director in her capacity of President of the Bulldog Alumni Club. They extend an invitation to golfers to join this event.

Doris and Raymond Porchea enjoyed a most pleasant cruise to Nassau in July.

Laura Winters keeps busy with volunteer work at her church, exercising at the gym, subbing, traveling, and occasionally babysitting her grandchildren. (Like many of us, she wonders how she ever found time to work!)

Ann Robinson, her husband, brother and sister-in-law attended the motorcycle races in Daytona, FL, some months ago, and while there, they visited Ann's friend Bea. The week of September 8-15, they, along with two other couples, spent a relaxing time at Hilton Head Island, SC.

Donald Conway, an active member of the American Volkssport Association, has recently completed walking 6000KM, while participating in 530 events across the US. He has walked one, or more, time in each county in Maryland, 35 states and Washington, DC. Since January 2001, Don has traveled to cities in TN, GA, SC, WA, OR, and Canada to take part in walks. (Wow! We're impressed!)

Carolyn Sullivan has been keeping busy as a substitute teacher at Thomas Johnson Middle School. She spends one day a week with her two grandsons (ages 3 and 4), while her daughter, who recently moved from Richmond to Millersville, is at work. Carolyn and her husband often spend weekends boating and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Doris Hall, her daughter, and grandson had a wonderful time in Los Angeles the first part of September----except for the return trip. It was scheduled for September 11th, but due to the national disasters. They were unable to fly home until three days later.

Janet Menassa and her husband, George, moved to Linden, VA, following their retirements. Once there, they became involved in community and church work, and Janet began singing with the Oratorio Society of Front Royal. They have traveled to Hawaii and to London, where they visited with their daughter. Also, Janet and George, along with Jill Menassa and her husband, John, have traveled to Brazil and Chile, where they visited Menassa cousins.

We are sorry to hear that Doris Edwards' husband passed away in mid October.

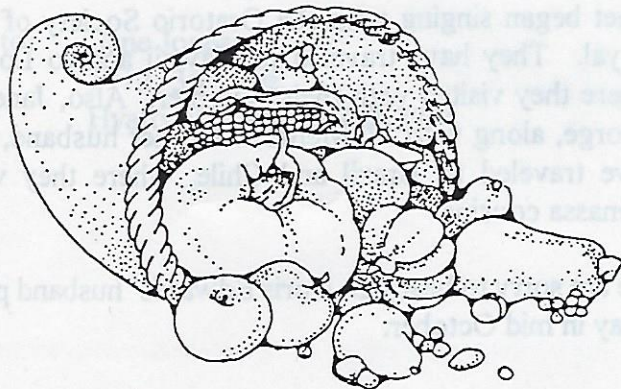
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Carmen Mosby has returned to the school system as an itinerate Pre-Kindergarten music teacher. She travels to four schools each week, instructing children in singing and creative movement. The children are energetic and enthusiastic which makes teaching them fun.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Congratulations - PGCRTA is fast approaching 1800 members. However, there are 70 members who have not paid their dues. We hope you will join us. We don't want to lose you. Remember our membership year is July 1 to June 30. Please pay soon as I have to forward your dues to MRTA so they will not remove you from the roll.

Seventy members attended our September meeting. We hope to see you at La Fontaine Bleu in November.

If you have read the Constitution and ByLaws mailed to you last month, I hope you noticed Article III Section 5. This section sets up the Associate Membership. We already have 5 members. They are: Silas A. Butler, Leroy Cowan, Fred Jones, Marie O'Clair, and Idell R. Vaughn. Membership cards will be sent soon. Membership spouses are invited to join us. An application is below; this is for PGCRTA membership only.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip code _____
Phone # _____
Name of member spouse _____

Send to: Jane Jones,
5912 -36th Ave,
Hyattsville, MD 20782-2924



Strassburg, PA
November 29 & 30, 2001

MIRACLE AT CHRISTMAS
Millennium Theater

HOLIDAY JUBILEE MUSICAL
American Musical Theater

This is a PGCRTA trip led by Charles Hudson. It will include one breakfast, one Amish dinner and one overnight accommodation. In addition to the two shows there will be shopping at an Outlet Shopping Mall. The fee includes all of the above plus the round trip bus, one bag, and gratuity.

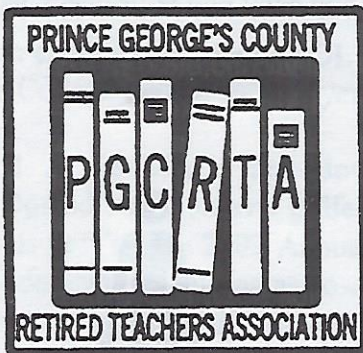
If 40 people go, the cost will be \$210 per person, 35 people will be \$220, and 30 people will be \$230. A single supplement will be \$42. Contact Charles Hudson 301-736-6946 and send him your check as soon as possible



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
9624 Small Drive
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(Non-Profit Org.)
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