



# INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

April 2025

Volume 50 Issue 5



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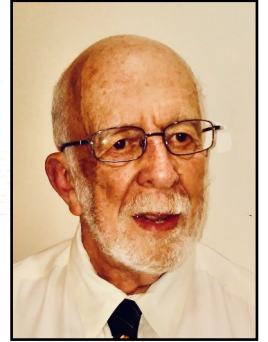
#### AARSPA - Riva Road

For Information  
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www.aarspa.org



Co-Presidents  
Sharyn Doyle  
and  
Anthony Anzalone

**AARSPA IS ROBUST!**



**Robust!** When was the last time you heard someone describe something as robust? Maybe a fine wine or a sharp cheese? How about a robust conversation? Our daffodils started to sprout in mid-February amid the freezing temperatures and snow on the ground. Talk about **robust!**

AARSPA, like the daffodil, is strong! Thanks to YOU, our achievements are remarkable. When the vernal equinox arrived at 5:01 EDT on Thursday, March 20, 2025, we were already celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *AARSPA INFORMER*. From AARTA to AARSPA... from the ditto machine to the digital printer, what a journey it has been! There's more to share today:

- Thanks to our benefactors, contributors, you, and Tillie Barckley, our Chairperson, five (5) \$5,000 Teacher Education Scholarships have enriched the lives of five high school seniors pursuing teaching careers.
- Your donations of hygiene products have benefitted senior citizens, people experiencing homelessness, those struggling with addiction, and adults in shelters.
- Animal shelters have also received pet food, toys, towels, and other donations.
- And let's not forget the Annual Anne Arundel County Food Bank Drive

collection in November.

- We thank the Hammond family for their time and effort in spring cleaning the Anne Arundel Free School Museum.
- Regarding the Anne Arundel Free School Museum, we thank the stewards and docents for their dedication to preserving this 300-year-old historic landmark as a vibrant tribute to our past by offering public tours, activities, and more.
- Our Trip Committee has organized theater performances, cruises, travel, food, and music for exciting day trips.
- The Remembrance Committee recognized members' anniversaries, Emeritus birthdays, those who are ill, and the bereaved and congratulated the honorees.
- The Consumer Education and Legislative Committees researched and reported on trends, bills, and issues that could impact our lives legally, financially, health-wise, and safety-wise.
- The Educator/Employee of the Month Selection Committee expressed appreciation to Edie Pickens for joining the team.
- The Membership team has revised the *Membership Pamphlet* and *Membership Application*, and they have distributed "AARSPA WANTS YOU TO JOIN" posters to BOE sites.

(Continued on page 2)

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- There are approximately 7,000 BOE individuals in the retirement system, of which around 1,600 are AARSPA Members. Please encourage non-members to join the TEAM. Numbers matter!

Usually, there would be information regarding the Florida Gathering in this newsletter issue. However, canceling this year's gathering was necessary due to very few reservations received. It is hoped that the tradition will continue next year. AARSPA thanks the Groffs for offering their home for the social hour and their assistance in selecting the restaurant for the luncheon.

Finally, here are two dates to add to your calendar:

**APRIL 11** - EASTERN SHORE GATHERING at OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB - RESERVATIONS DUE BY APRIL 2;

**May 8** - GENERAL MEETING/LUNCHEON at TWO RIVERS STEAK & FISH HOUSE in PASADENA. Officers will be installed, remembrances of those we've lost will be held, Voices in Melody will perform, and peers and friends will have a chance to catch up.

A Final Thought: 🌟 **Join Us as a Volunteer!** 🌟  
Our organization thrives because of dedicated volunteers like YOU! We need enthusiastic individuals to help us continue making a difference!



Check out the following pages:



Anne Arundel Retired  
School Personnel  
Association  
(AARSPA)

National Retired Teachers  
Association (NRTA)

Anne Arundel County  
Public Schools  
(AACPS)

Maryland Retired School  
Personnel Association  
(MRSPA)

# News You Can Use



## Love Your Pet

We know you love your pets and your garden. However, if your favorite pet decides to sample one of those lovely plants, it can lead to serious health problems or even death. For an extensive list of potentially toxic plants, visit the [ASPCA.org](http://ASPCA.org) website. If you think your pet may have ingested a potentially toxic substance, call your vet or the ASPCA Poison Hotline at 888-426-4435.

## Dark Chocolate

A study of more than 192,000 Americans found that consuming five servings of dark chocolate per week (not per day) lowers the risk of developing type-2 diabetes by 21%. No benefits of consuming milk chocolate were found.

## Benefits of Bananas

Bananas contain over 400 mg. of potassium and just one mg. of sodium, which helps lower blood pressure and maintain a fluid balance in blood and tissue cells. Eating barely ripe bananas also helps heal ulcers in the digestive tract. The bananas increase the mucus that coats the lining and promote cell growth.

## Tech Support

AARP offers personal tech support. Senior Planet, AARP's virtual community center, provides the latest news, how-to-articles, and free virtual tech classes. You can also speak to a trainer for help with a tech problem by calling 888-713-3495 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET.





***The Buddy Holly Story***  
**Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre**  
**Lancaster, Pennsylvania**  
**Saturday, September 6, 2025**



Travel to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and spend an afternoon with the cast of ***The Buddy Holly Story***, which tells the true story of the last few years of Buddy Holly's life, spotlighting his meteoric rise to fame from the moment in 1957 when "That'll Be the Day" hit the airwaves until his tragic death on "the day the music died." Featuring such timeless hits as "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "Everyday," "Oh Boy," "Not Fade Away," and "La Bamba," ***Buddy*** is a celebration of the life and times of "the young man with the glasses" that catches the unique mixture of innocence, determination, humor, and charm that was Buddy Holly, wrapping it all up into a package that has become "The World's Most Successful Rock-n-Roll Musical!"

**Lunch & Reserved Seats**

Before the show, enjoy a delicious Buffet Lunch.

You get all this for \$129.00 per person, which includes transportation, all taxes, and tips, including the driver. Your reservations for this trip must be received by Wednesday, **May 21, 2025**.

**Itinerary:**

9:00 a.m. Depart the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road  
 11:15 a.m. Arrive in Lancaster, PA, at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre  
 11:30 a.m. Buffet Lunch  
 1:00 p.m. Showtime! *The Buddy Holly Story*  
 3:45 p.m. Depart Lancaster, PA  
 6:00 p.m. Arrive at the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road

***The Buddy Holly Story - Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre - Lancaster, Pa***  
**Reservations must be received by Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**Send this reservation form and check payable to AARSPA to:**

Bob Kanach  
 512 Augusta Drive,  
 Arnold, Maryland 21021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell Phone (in case separated from group): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (for receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

Address:: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$129.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ***Make Checks Payable to AARSPA***

Other names in your party, if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_





Let's make someone smile—someone who has led a productive life and maybe raised children who attended the classes we taught. They may have been church members or lived in our community. Now, they live in one of our county's many assisted living facilities and need to know they are remembered. Let's bring lots of smiles across the county by supplying them with items that make their day a little brighter. (It is also a great time to clean our closets.)

- **Items for Entertainment:** puzzles (100-500 pieces with ALL the pieces), board games, large print puzzle books, craft supplies

- **Personal Hygiene:** Lotion, hand soap, hair products, shaving products

- **Bingo Prizes:** Snacks! Snacks! Snacks! (They love that candy bar they can no longer afford.) Beyond snacks, look around your house for items that would make lovely decorations, such as small figurines, pictures, or small artificial flower vases. This is also a great time to check your jewelry box for small items you no longer want.

## Members, we have a problem !!

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) awards six \$500.00 grants to teachers needing funds to support student needs-based projects to support virtual or in-person learning that the school system or parent-teacher organization does not cover. Last year, only one teacher in Anne Arundel County applied! I reached out to Wanda Twigg, the MRSPA Executive Director, to learn how they were alerting school systems of these available grants and learned they rely on central office personnel to get the word out. Obviously, this approach isn't working in our county, so we must inform teachers of this opportunity. As former educators, you still have contacts within the schools. Please reach out to them and make them aware of these grants. They must go to the MRSPA website and download the MRSPA Classroom Grant Application. Previously, applications were due November 1st, and I assume this will be true for 2025.

-Phyllis Cherry  
Community Service Committee Chair

## Scholarship Update!

With your generous donations, you are providing an opportunity for our scholars to realize that they will be the architects of knowledge, designing a blueprint for success in each student's life.

### In Honor of...

Elizabeth B. Saunders, retired from AACPS 30+ years

### In Memory of...

Agnes Abernethy  
Jean B. Bates  
Gwendolyn Churchill  
Naomi Jean Curry  
W.E. Craig (10 years)  
Deborah Turner Huey  
R. Thomas Powell  
Jean Queen  
Gail Trettel  
Frances Sieradzki  
Dr. Tim Tooten

## Mark Your Calendar!



DAVIDSONVILLE, MD

**Killarney House Pub**  
584 West Central Avenue  
Davidsonville



Tuesday, **June 17**, 2025, for the entire business day

\$10 from each \$30 **fundraiser menu** order goes to the scholarship fund.

Patrons have to mention the AARSPA fundraiser.



## New Opportunity!

There is now another way to support AARPA's Scholarship Program! The link below allows you to donate online to the AARSPA Scholarship Program through the Education Foundation of AACPS.

<https://aacpsfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/242891-anne-arundel-retired-school-personnel-association-aarspa>

# REMEMBRANCE

## Member Deaths

Gloria O. Calderazzo  
 Russell J. Heyde, Jr.  
 Frances R. Sieradzki  
 Maureen S. Taylor  
 John B. Wheeler

*Many of the following member deaths are not recent. However, we just learned of them from an annual state report.*

Ronald C. Boyer  
 Frances B. Brown  
 Verna L. Buchanan  
 Kathryn Chuvala  
 Mary D. Faulkner  
 Joan E. Green  
 Gloria W. Hutchins  
 Evelyn R. Johnson  
 Priscilla A. Lyman  
 Katherine Mason  
 Earl M. Neall, Jr.  
 Jane W. Nidenberger  
 Joyce H. Parkinson  
 Catherine G. Priester  
 Margaret Snyder  
 Hilda L. Taylor  
 Therese A. Tobiczky  
 Obie L. Tucker  
 Linda H. Watkins  
 Erma R. Williams  
 Dorothy M. Wolfe

## Get Well/Thinking of You

Henry Shubert

If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people:

### Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at [milliegardner65@gmail.com](mailto:milliegardner65@gmail.com) or 443-784-2190

### Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Linda Poole at [mlp2118@yahoo.com](mailto:mlp2118@yahoo.com) or 410-570-4020

### Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at [wwdsrogers@verizon.net](mailto:wwdsrogers@verizon.net) or 410-647-7585

## Emeritus Birthday

<b>APRIL</b>	10	James Levay	93
	23	Mary Delores Handy	94
	30	Lore Singerman	93
<b>MAY</b>	6	Mary Tereshinski	98
	10	<b>Olivia Thompson</b>	100
	11	<b>Josephine Reeves</b>	100
	15	Marge Rasheff	99
	21	Alice V. Gills	93
	24	Helen Cook	98
	29	Jeanne Hawes	95
<b>JUNE</b>	5	Delores Cager	91
	8	Charles Gavin	93
	8	Patricia McKinster	91
	13	Lois Porter	94
	13	Iris Minarik	91

## Anniversaries

<b>APRIL</b>	9	Abigail & Bill Jackson	58
	11	Barbara Zelle & Kim Proctor	16
	18	Kathy & Denis Schanberger	52
<b>MAY</b>	7	Joan & Rich Detuccio	48
	7	Carolyn & Tony Anzalone	59
	11	Linda & Lee Watkins	51
	11	Lorraine & David Foster	51
	16	Susan Bowen & Ray Rankin	33
	19	Valerie Wesner & Don Courts	41
	22	Dale & Ron Smith	54
	23	Karen & Dave Lanham	55
<b>JUNE</b>	8	Patricia & George Caldwell	62
	8	Elaine & Bob DiAiso	62
	13	Evangeline & Clifton Prince	55
	13	Mary & Larry Lynch	55
	15	MaryAnn & Tom Rohr	51
	20	Dixie & Bill Stack	55
	20	Patricia & Louis Aprigliano	54
	20	Pat & Bill McQuade	55
	20	Christelle & Abrian Wiseman	55
	22	Brenda & Rick Terry	62
	22	Jeanne & Dick Hawes	72
	23	Burma & Lawrence Hill	63
	24	Earnestine & Joseph Butler	53
	25	Connie & Charlie Smith	59
	26	Jim & Carolyn Levay	71
	26	Sophie & Bill Sharkey	54
	30	Amy & Mark Coover	40
	30	Sue & Den Skinner	52



# NORTHERN CATALPA TREE

Anne Arundel County

CHAMPION

February 2025

The Anne Arundell County Free School Museum proudly announces that the Northern Catalpa Tree on the property has been named an Anne Arundel County CHAMPION. With all its burls and interesting gnarly growth patterns, the tree is a favorite of visitors. Its circumference of 14'10", height of 42', and average crown width of 55'x51' helped earn the Catalpa's Champion status. A warm and big "Thank You" to Millie deSimone and Don Bailey for meeting with arborists, people from the county Forestry Department, and representatives from the Champion Tree Registry. Millie and Don's efforts made this designation happen!



## Spring Cleaning

Tyler Portch, his parents Courtney and Bryan, and his grandparents and AARSPA member John Hammond and his wife, Marge, spent the afternoon of Saturday, February 15, giving the interior of the Free School a thorough cleaning. The family has done this for several years as part of Tyler's school service project. Their hard work makes the spring cleaning that other AARSPA members do before the Open House season much easier to accomplish. Thank you again to the Hammond and Portch families for your dedication to the Free School.

### MEETING DATES

#### Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.

April 10, 2025	MRSPA Office, Odenton
June 12, 2025	Free School
July 10, 2025	Room 2A, AACPS

#### General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.

May 8, 2025	Two Rivers Steak and Fish House Pasadena
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### DATES TO REMEMBER



April 11, 2025

May 6, 2025

June 17, 2025

July 21, 2025

Sept. 6, 2025

### OTHER DATES

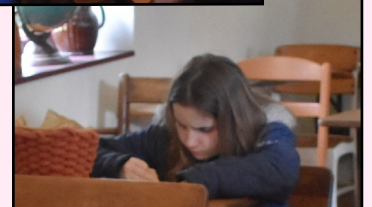
AARSPA on the Eastern Shore  
Ocean Pines Yacht Club  
MRSPA Annual Business Meeting  
Turf Valley Resort  
Killarney House Scholarship  
Fundraiser  
Deadline for August 2025 AARSPA  
Informer  
*The Buddy Holly Story*  
Lancaster, PA



# FREE SCHOOL MUSEUM



A sincere thank you to the docents who made the Maryland Day Event at the Annearrundell County Free School Museum such a success - Bob Kanach, Carolyn Webber, Jim and Carla Duls, Millie de Simone, Jerry Everett, Don Bailey, Rick and Kathy Hornig, Deb Ahalt, and Ava Ramsey, a high school senior. Approximately 70 adults and 45 children enjoyed the variety of activities available. Our guests asked many questions that our docents cheerfully answered. Adults and children went home with lots of information and remembrances! Forty-eight (48) guests seemed to especially enjoy taking home the jars of butter they made while at the Free School Museum.



## Annerrundell County Free School Museum 1298 Lavall Drive Davidsonville, MD 21035

Open Houses 2025  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Special timed events are noted

### Dates and Activities

#### April 13, 2025

Display of math textbooks and teaching tools,  
i.e. an abacus

#### May 11, 2025

At 2:00 p.m., there will be a slide presentation  
on the renovation process

#### June 8, 2025

Materials will be provided, and guests can  
make a clay pinch pot to take home

#### July 13, 2025

At 2:00 p.m., a docent will conduct a story  
time for elementary school-aged children.  
Guests can take home a children's book from  
a present-day collection of books.

#### August 10, 2025

Open House

For additional information, contact Karlie  
Everett at [karlieeverett@verizon.net](mailto:karlieeverett@verizon.net).

All activities and materials are free for  
participants.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## AARSPA Informer Delivery

Are you receiving ALL the wonderful information about YOUR organization? Recently, we learned that many members who receive the *AARSPA Informer* by email failed to open this valuable link. This means YOU are missing out on opportunities to join colleagues for a meeting lunch, participate in a volunteer activity, or be proud of the various events AARSPA plans and the recognition we receive.

You may think it doesn't matter whether you open the email or not. However, it really does because it matters to US. Constant Contact makes the association aware of those people who do not open their email over a period of time. Once we receive this information, we verify each email address. Then we change your email to a postal delivery so you can receive the newsletter provided by AARSPA. Moving you to postal delivery increases our expenses by mailing the newsletter since we now need to print more copies and pay postage for the delivery. Besides, you will receive the *AARSPA Informer* later since the digital version will go out first.

Help us go GREEN by receiving the newsletter by email!



## Membership SPECIAL

MRSPA is again offering the **\$10 (prorated) state dues special** for **new** and **former** members between **March 1 and May 31, 2025**, for the current 2024-2025 membership and fiscal year. Local dues rates remain the same. This change is to encourage **new** and **former** members to sign up for dues deduction during this March to May period and therefore pay **NO** state dues with the \$10 state dues reduction incentive (**dues deduction members only**). Local dues will be collected.

New or former members who sign up during this time, who elect to pay by **credit card or check**, **will still owe the \$10 state dues and local dues**. Checks are still payable to MRSPA for the state and local dues amount. Locals will receive their dues from MRSPA as per the usual procedure. These new and reinstated members will be billed for their 2025-2026 dues at the full rate in July. This is part of moving all dues payments to the appropriate fiscal and membership year, while encouraging member recruitment.

A **NEW membership application form** with the special \$10 state dues is now on the MRSPA website. For additional information or forms, contact MRSPA at [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org) or by calling 410-551-1517.



First-time attendees Mary Beth Gormley and Barbara Colacicco enjoyed the event.



Linda Poole and Angela Barber



## February Luncheon Meeting Renditions February 13, 2025



The Broadneck Ensemble entertained with inspiring songs.



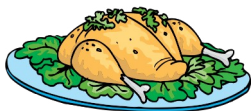
Susan Baugher and Millie Gardner



MRSPA President Betty Weller was a special guest.







## AARSPA Business Meeting & Luncheon Two Rivers Steak and Fish House Thursday, May 8, 2025



Our annual business meeting and luncheon will be held Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Two Rivers Steak and Fish House, 4105 Mountain Road, Pasadena, Maryland. Registration will begin at 9:45 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. The reservation form and payment must be received no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2025. After this date, we will not be able to give any refunds.

*Please remember to bring a donation for the Anne Arundel County nursing homes and/or supplies for the Anne Arundel County Animal Shelter. The Community Service Committee will deliver the gathered items after the meeting.*

Our entrée choices are:

- Chicken Chesapeake – fresh chicken breast stuffed with spinach, prosciutto, and lump crab served with a Dijon cream sauce
- 6 ounce center cut sirloin steak grilled to medium temperature
- Grilled vegetable stack
- 2 layer sheet cake sliced and served

Each entrée is served with green beans and rice, a garden salad with ranch or bleu cheese dressing, and a freshly baked roll. The cost per person is \$43.00. Please make your check payable to **AARSPA**. Mail the reservation form and payment to arrive no later than April 30, 2025, to:

Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012



-----cut here-----



Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Chicken Chesapeake	Sirloin Steak	Veggie Stack	
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$43 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$43 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$43 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$43 = _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you are an Emeritus member (age 90 or greater). Your meal is free.



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
2644 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401



## Scholarship Fund Donation

*Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution of quality teachers entering the education profession.*

*I wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund.*

**Donation Amount is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ birthday \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary

\_\_\_\_\_ other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
or for

Tax Deductible Donations, make checks payable to:  
Education Foundation of AACPS

**Mail checks to:**

Matilda Barckley  
8238 Great Bend Road  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

**Name and Address of the honoree:**

*We will inform the honoree(s) and/or the family of the deceased that a gift has been made to the scholarship fund.*

**Send notice of my donation to:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For questions, please contact:*

Matilda Barckley barckleya@comcast.net 410-768-3408