

Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.



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

Volume 2019-20, Issue #4

April, 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Carol Dahlberg
President - MCPSRA

On February 20, 2020, over 100 MCPSRA members and guests came together at Normandie Farm Restaurant for an informative and fun-filled afternoon. Shebra Evans and Sunil Dasgupta, candidates for the MCPS Board of Education shared their views and goals for



Sherba Evans

MCPS. Katie Rictor, Executive Director, and Lisa Maclean, Historian, presented biographical information regarding Josiah Henson and provided an update on the



Sunil Dasgupta

construction of the Josiah Henson Park, Museum and Educational Center. John Gamage, "Johnny G," topped off the afternoon strumming his guitar and singing his renditions of 50s, country, folk, and calypso



Josiah Henson Project Update

music.

Margaret Brown and Nancy Sanders announced that all



Johnny "G"

scheduled trips for this spring will be cancelled because not enough members have registered. I would like to recognize Margaret and Nancy for the time, energy and dedication they have put into identifying and organizing a variety of trips for the 2019-2020 year. I only regret that our members could not find time to take advantage of their hard work! (See article on page 8.)

Each year MCPSRA awards scholarships the MCPS employees taking summer courses for an advanced degree or to improve their teaching skills. Both professional and supporting services staff in schools, offices, and warehouses. Applications and procedures will be available in all locations. The deadline for receipt of applications is May 6, 2020. Interviews will be scheduled individually with each applicant.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next luncheon on April 23. Be sure to take a look at the proposed budget 2020-2021 on pages 4 and 5. We will be voting on it at the luncheon.

---Carol Dahlberg

PS. A special thank you to Bill Mills for the photographs included on this page, and page 2 and 4.

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Vice President	Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
Immediate Past President	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Recording Secretary	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Treasurer	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092

Committee Chairs:

Archives	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Auditing	Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net	301-251-0478
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Community Service	Frieda J. Price fjprice@verizon.net	301-926-2286
Consumer Education	Reginald J. Ott regjott@verizon.net	301-384-4901
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman CTMAR28@yahoo.com	301-929-9660
Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
---Josiah Henson Project	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Membership	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com	301-806-7252
Nominating	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary nearynic@msn.com	301-869-0057
Political Action	Lou D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Public Relations	VACANT	
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Joy G. Schwab	301-253-3294
--- (MCPSRA) Co-Chair	Elizabeth A. Stonesifer wonderfulnice@aol.com	301-460-5155
---Louise S. Walker	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161
Trips	Margaret Brown margdell@gmail.com	301-910-2305
---Co-Chair	Nancy Sanders NancyOSanders@gmail.com	301-963-1357

2019-20 BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

DATES

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



Members enjoying themselves at our February luncheon.

Please note that the remaining Business meeting/Luncheon dates for this year are:

April 23, 2020

June 11, 2020

2020-21 BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

DATES Have Been Set

If you enjoy our luncheons as much as I do (Newsletter Editor), here are the dates of the 2020-21 luncheons to put on your calendar:

October 15, 2020

February 18, 2021

April 15, 2021

June 17, 2021



Normandie Farm... more than popovers



RESTORED HOPE AND CONFIDENCE

When and why do we sometimes find it necessary to pour out our hearts and souls to someone? Is it mainly during times of crisis when we're looking for someone to share our pain or to help lift a heavy burden, we're dealing with in our life? Is it to vent frustration, to scream at the top of our lungs, "Doesn't anybody care?! PLEASE, someone help me!" Or could it be that pouring out one's heart is the only way left to get people to listen and be inspired to do something? I guess I am guilty of all of these.

As I reflect on my "THIS COULD BE THE LAST YEAR OF OUR TOOLKITS PROJECT! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!!" article in the February newsletter, pouring out my heart and soul didn't turn out to be such a bad thing! I really needed to hear from MCPSRA members that there are others out there who care, who really understand just how important our project has been over the years to the neediest of our county's school children and their families, and who realize how devastating it would be to have to do away with it at this time when it is needed more than ever. My plea did not fall on deaf ears. Immediately after our February Newsletter came out, responses starting pouring in from members near and far. Many donations were accompanied by a brief note: "SO sorry to hear that you've worked SO hard and so few people are supporting this project. I've doubled my contribution - may others do the same!" "Thank you for your hard work and efforts!" "PLEASE try to keep this project going!!" "This is a GREAT project - thanks for being so faithful to it." With each kind note and each donation, my hope was restored and my confidence that we can keep this project alive soared.

When the February newsletter went to print, we had only received 74 donations for a total of \$5,660. With the estimated cost for this summer's project at \$29,000 to \$30,000, the task of raising enough money to continue planning for our project in four to five months seemed an impossibility. It is with enormous gratitude and tears of joy to be able to report that at present we have received 191 donations for a total of \$17,190! That is truly remarkable - such an outpouring of caring, commitment, and generosity from MCPSRA members who actually heard my plea and responded so quickly. I think I can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel, as the old saying goes.

We have a long way to go, though, to be able to fully fund this summer's project of providing 2,200 toolkits to needy kindergartners and Head Start students who will be participating in the Title I Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In Learning (ELO SAIL) Program at approximately 26 school sites in July and August. PLEASE step forward and join those who have already contributed to guarantee that our project will be successful again this summer. Please fill out the sponsorship form below and send it along with your tax-deductible donation to the address provided on the form. Make sure your check is made payable to **MCPS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line. My hope and confidence have been restored! Let's continue to build up the children's confidence by letting them see that there are many, many people who are willing to help them as they begin their educational journey. Thank you all SO MUCH for your love and commitment.

Joan Donovan

MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation**, with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ toolkits at \$10 per kit. Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Optional: In memory of _____ In honor of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Select one: _____ e-mail me a receipt at _____

_____ mail me a receipt _____ no receipt is necessary

_____ Do **NOT** include my name on the toolkits labels

Welcome New Members

Joined in January 2020

Janet M. Muir-Howden
Amanda J. Yannes

7 Hartley Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
1540 Murphy Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20905

240-401-2934
301-525-2091

Joined in February 2020

Vicki R. Rodgers

10090 Mill Run Circle #141 F, Owings Mills, MD 21117

443-804-8492

MCPSRA Budget for Next Year (2020-2021)

Steve Raucher, Budget Chair

The proposed budget for MCPSRA for Fiscal Year 2021 [July 1 2020 – June 30 2021] is included in this newsletter. It includes funding for the scholarships we give annually, support for our Toolkits Project, support for the Josiah Henson Park project and covers the continuing costs of operating our association. To fund all these activities will require \$32,925.

Unfortunately, our membership numbers have not kept pace with our financial needs. Therefore, the budget had to increase our individual annual dues by \$5 [from \$10 to \$15] starting this coming July. We simply can't continue to represent you and provide the support to our scholarships and projects with the current dues income.

To put this in perspective, we have not had a dues increase in over 20 years. The U.S. Bureau of Statistics shows that the median US salary in 1999 was \$42,000 and increased to \$65,191 by 2020 JUST DUE TO INFLATION that's a greater percentage increase for 20 years than our dues increase.

We surveyed all the other local counties and found that most have already increased their dues. All of the other large counties are charging \$15 already.

I hope you will support this budget which will be presented for membership approval at the April 23, Luncheon Meeting.



Steve Raucher

MCPSRA Proposed Budget FY 2020 / 2021

	FY19 /20	Requested	Proposed
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auditing	\$1,200.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Committee for Montgomery	\$1,100.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Community Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations/Contributions from MCPSRA	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance & Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Josiah Henson Special Project	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Legislative	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Membership Honorarium	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Newsletter	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
Political Action	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Program	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Recognition	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Scholarship	\$9,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Special Projects - Toolkits	\$2,250.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Trip Committee	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Website	\$250.00	\$275.00	\$275.00
Officers	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Contingency	\$200.00	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00
Total	\$29,450.00	\$34,500.00	\$34,500.00
Membership Dues @ \$15/member*	\$24,950.00	\$34,500.00	\$34,500.00

*** \$5/ member increase on 2300 members**

POLITICAL ACTION!

The Maryland Primary Election is Tuesday, April 28, 2020, and the MCPSRA Political Action Committee (MCPSRA-PAC) has been hard at work. Their goal was to identify the candidates for Montgomery County Board of Education and U.S. Congress (Districts 3, 6, and 8) who best support the interests of MCPSRA members.

All candidates who filed with the Board of Elections for seats on the Montgomery County Board of Education in District 2 or District 4 or At Large, or for the US House of Representatives in District 3, 6, or 8, were contacted and offered the opportunity to participate in our process.

All candidates who were reached were sent a questionnaire prepared by the PAC and a biographical form to complete. Those who responded were offered an interview with the Committee. The PAC held interviews during the first two weeks in February.

Following are our recommendations:

Board of Education

District 2 - No recommendation

District 4 - Shebra Evans

At Large - Sunil Dasgupta

US House of Representatives

District 3 - No recommendation

District 6 - No recommendation

District 8 - Jamie Raskin

Shebra Evans, Sunil Dasgupta, and Jamie Raskin were invited to our February Luncheon. (Shebra Evans and Sunil Dasgupta attended.) They were also invited to send us a photo and article for publication in this newsletter.

Thank you to our PAC members LeeAnn Kaye, Harvey Strine, Darlene Simmons, Reggie Ott, Mike Durso, Jim Politis, and Carol Dahlberg.

Lou D’Ovidio, Chair

MCPSRA Recommended Candidates for the MCPS School Board

Sunil Dasgupta - Candidate At Large

Why are you running for this office?

Education does not arrive magically to our students. We face unprecedented challenges with teacher retention and balancing resource allocation. I want to hire more teachers and staff, reduce class size, rebuild the home/school partnership, and invest in the health, safety, and wellness. Where is the money? We have to make sure the state and county will fully fund schools, and I hope to rebalance capital and operating budgets to stretch the money we have.



What qualities or experience do you have to serve on the school board? I am a first-generation immigrant and parent of 3 MCPS students. I have 20 years of classroom teaching and policy research experience, 11 teaching MCPS graduates. I have worked with budgets, financial reports, and data. I have been a PTA leader and founded the annual Mental Health and Wellness Forum for students, staff, and families. I have served on various school-related MCPS and county committees including on health, safety, use of screens, and the Planning Board’s

Subdivision Staging Policy and I have written publicly on education issues and testified before the Board of Education, County Council, and other forums.

What is the most important issue in this race and what specific plans do you have to address it?

While school boundaries may be the runaway issue, our focus should absolutely be on closing the performance gap while enabling students who are doing well to do even better. There is no one silver bullet, but hiring more staff is step one toward reducing staff ratios; retaining and training teachers better; improving rigor and content in the curriculum; targeting resources to those who need it most; rebuilding the home and school partnership; and enabling investments in health, safety, and wellness. To do all of this, we need a strong BOE to secure resources, reprioritize, and rebalance capital and operating budgets.

Shebra Evans - Candidate District 4

My name is Shebra L Evans and I am running for re-election for the Montgomery County Board of Education, District 4 seat. I cannot thank the Montgomery County Public School Retirees Association enough for your endorsement in my bid for re-election and for your continued support in my current role as board president. I am happy to share some of what has been accomplished during my time on the board. We have redoubled our commitment to expanding access and opportunity so that all students have what they



need to be college, career and community ready. System wide, this looks like universal screening for enriched and accelerated programming at the middle and elementary school level. Many students who needed the enrichment and acceleration did not have the knowledge, time, or resources to support the application process were excluded from the program. Our All In: Equity and Achievement Framework looks at individual student progress through the Equity Accountability Model; and how resources (people, time and money) are allocated and used at schools through the Equitable Access to Resources study. We have unmasked disparities in outcomes by disaggregating student performance by race, poverty, and the intersection of race and poverty at each school. Our continued work looks like expanded access to prekindergarten. MCPS has added hundreds of full day pre-K seats for the last several years and will continue to work with the County to expand early education. We support the Blueprint for Maryland because the legislation will provide significant funding to public schools in Montgomery County and across the state. In particular, it will increase support for early education - a primary focus for our school system. I believe that an empowered and informed community is the most effective way to build a high-quality school system. This has been the foundation of my work these past four years. I will continuously strive to foster a productive partnership with the school system and the community we serve.

For additional information about my campaign, please visit my website: www.Shebraevans.com
By Authority: Friends of Shebra Evans; Treasurer, Jeffrey M. Groce

MCPSRA Travel Report

It is with much regret, that we announce that all planned winter and spring 2020 trips have been cancelled. This decision has been made as a result of the necessary cancellations of the October, November, and December 2019 trips and the February and March 2020 trips because of insufficient numbers of registrants. The number of paid registrations for these trips averaged only 40% of the required number.

The enthusiastic support of all interested travelers has been greatly appreciated, and we regret your disappointment over any missed trips! We began the year with great fervor and eagerness. Our travel journey began in September with an outstanding turnout and many meaningful experiences as we traveled to the African American Museum. Unfortunately, enthusiasm for the following trips waned. They did not produce the interest and response we had hoped for.

Thank you very much for the support from eager travelers, from Frieda Price for her constant guidance and encouragement, from President Carol Dahlberg, Newsletter Editor Russ Wright, Treasurers Ken Muir and Steve Raucher, and from all other Board Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you as Co-chairs of MCPSRA Travel!

Nancy Sanders and Margaret Brown

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT?

We are sending this Newsletter as an email attachment to all members for whom we have a working email address.

Here are the advantages of the email version:

- it's in color
- it arrives earlier than the print version, and
- if you only get the email version it saves our organization money.

If you are not getting the email version, it's because we don't have your correct email address. If you are one of these people, and if you would like to receive the email version of the Newsletter as an email attachment please send an email to MCPSRA@zoho.com. **Use this same address to let us know if you want the newsletter by email only.**

Volunteers by Frieda Price

There are many community activities looking for volunteers. Spring and summer activities are plentiful and varied. There are activities for children and adults, outdoors and indoors.

You can find suggestions and opportunities listed on Web site's and in local newspapers.

I hope you will take the time to visit the Montgomery Volunteer Center for yourself. Here is their website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/.

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

OCTOBER, 2019

June E. Gue
Vivian B. Hensley

NOVEMBER, 2019

Nancy A. Courtney
Barbara J. Day
Lucille N. Malamut
Charles C. Philipp
Kenneth A. Snoots, Sr.

DECEMBER, 2019

Walter C. Calhoun, Jr.
Jesse R. Graham, Jr.
Thomas M. Smetanick
Ernest L. Solar

JANUARY, 2020

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

FEBRUARY, 2020

Dorothy M. Smith
Jack J. Talamo
Gary J. Spinella (husband of
Michele)



Photo by Mandel Ngan

Josiah Henson Project

MCPSRA has been a dedicated sponsor of the Josiah Henson Park Project for several years. We set aside in our budget, \$5000.00 as a grant to match member donations. (Use the form below to contribute.)

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: _____

MCPSRA is Working for You

On March 5, two members of the MCPSRA Board of Directors went to Annapolis to represent you. They met with Senators and Delegates to lobby in favor of four bills currently under consideration. Your representatives at the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Lobby Day were Fred Evans and Russ Wright. Fred met with Senator Cheryl Kagan and Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr. Russ met with Senators Jim Rosapepe and Pamela Beidel and Delegates Mike Rogers and Mark Chang.

Here are the bills Fred and Russ lobbied in favor of:

HB 1300/SB 1000 Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is the bill to increase education funding in the state with the goal of greatly improving our schools. Although we spoke in support of the goals of these bills, we cautioned Senators and Delegates about several of our concerns:

- the legislature must avoid any cuts to retiree benefits in their search for the funds needed.
- the legislature must avoid tax increases that will impact retirees, especially retirees on fixed incomes.
- the legislature must keep in mind that some retired support staff receive little or no pension left after their monthly health insurance premiums are deducted.

HB 745/SB 407 Office of the Attorney General – Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit

This bill establishes a two-person unit within the Office of the Attorney General to bring civil actions to recover assets unjustly taken from seniors and other vulnerable adults by scammers and other criminals.

HB 1095/SB 669 Prescription Drug Affordability Board and Fund

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board will work to reduce prescription costs for all Marylanders.

HB 1365/SB 786 Income Tax Credit for Long Term Care Insurance Premiums

This bill will provide a small tax credit to encourage more Marylanders to purchase long-term care insurance.

MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Normandie Farm 10710 Falls Road

Potomac, MD 20854

301-983-8838

www.popovers.com

If MCPS is closed, luncheon is cancelled. Delayed opening, luncheon is held.

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

Menu Choices:

Roasted Chicken Breast w/fresh thyme	\$23.50
Seared Filet of Salmon w/fresh dill drizzle	\$23.50
Tenderloin tips of Beef w/marsala sauce	\$23.50
Vegetable Lasagna w/marinara sauce	\$20.00

Entrees include: Spring greens w/fresh strawberries; Popovers; vegetables, raspberry/lemon sorbet, tea, coffee, and soda.
Cash bar available.

-----Cut-Here-----

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Circle Entrée Choice

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish

email address: _____ Beef Vegetarian

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish

email address: _____ Beef Vegetarian

Total amount enclosed: _____

RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, April 17, 2020.

Make check payable to MCPSRA. Mail to:

LEEANN KAYE

3210 N. LEISURE WORLD BLVD. #306

SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

FOR INFORMATION: LEEANN KAYE 301-598-5480 OR TRISH BENDLER 301-540-5160

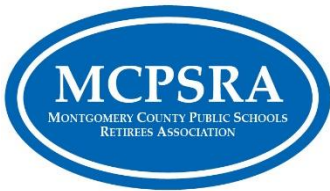
GEOLAKAYE@GMAIL.COM PATRICIA_BENDLER09@COMCAST.NET

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

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.**

Next Luncheon Date
April 23, 2020

**The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in
October, December, February, April, and June.**

This is the April, 2020 issue.