

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.



WWW.MCPSRETIREES.ORG
MCPSRA MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 4367
ROCKVILLE, MD 20849-4367

VOLUME 2014-15, ISSUE #2

DECEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our first luncheon at Normandie Farm was a spectacular success. We had the largest number of members (over 110) in recent memory attending. The food, atmosphere and fellowship were "outstanding". [I would like to express a special note of thanks and congratulations to LeeAnn Kay, Trish Bendler, Dr. Carol Dahlberg, and all who contributed to this activity.] We were thrilled that our Interim Superintendent, Mr. Larry Bowers, was able to join us. He gave us a meaningful and insightful view of his perspective of MCPS priorities, its changing demographics, and how we, as retirees, can continue to help the school system thrive. We heard from several of our committees, including the Tool Kits Project, now entering its 13th year of providing help to the Title I SAIL Program. They noted that a key to that project's success was the continuing support of the MCPS Warehouse, and in particular Mr. Orlando "Lanny" Taylor. He was our special luncheon guest and was presented with a plaque in recognition of his outstanding support of us and this award winning project.

Our program included speakers from the Josiah Henson Park (a Museum and Education Center) Project of the Montgomery Parks Foundation. We learned many fascinating facts about the life and times of Josiah Henson, the individual about whose life Harriet Beecher Stow's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was written. I never realized that his owners were from Bethesda, and that their farm is now the basis for the Josiah Henson Park. Located near the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane, the Josiah Henson Park preserves part of the former Riley plantation, where Reverend Henson was enslaved from 1795-1830. Henson eventually escaped to Canada where he established a fugitive slave community. He was a "conductor" of the Underground Railroad leading 118 slaves to freedom in Canada. He educated himself, became a well-known speaker and writer, and continued his work as a member of the Methodist Ministry.

The Josiah Henson Project, chaired by Montgomery County's "First Lady" Catherine Leggett, envisions a museum and educational facility on the very spot where Reverend Henson was enslaved. The county has agreed to fund up to \$5 million to establish this museum **BUT** only after \$2 million in private funding has been raised.

I am proud to report that, as a follow on activity to the Josiah Henson presentation, your MCPSRA has chosen to fully endorse and support this project. At our November Board Meeting, the Board agreed to add our name and logo to the campaign and to match up to \$5,000 of individual and other contributions made to the project through MCPSRA.

Now it's your turn. Make your tax deductible contribution check out to Montgomery Parks Foundation and mail it to our Treasurer, Dr. Ken Muir, 3100 North Leisure World Blvd # 508, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906. We will match it, and send it on to help move the Josiah Henson Park Museum and Educational Facility Project forward so future generations of Montgomery County residents can learn about our history and the courage of this individual in the fight for freedom.

Happy Holidays, Steve Raucher



MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Stephen M. Raucher	301-460-9092
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Vice President	Carol M. Dahlberg	301-253-2212
	jdahlberg2@verizon.net	
Immediate Past President.....	Joy G. Schwab	301-253-3294
	joyschw35@verizon.net	
Recording Secretary.....	Mary D'Ovidio.....	240-246-7818
	ldovidio01@comcast.net	
Treasurer.....	Kenneth K. Muir	301-598-3649
	kkmuir@aol.com	

Committee Chairs

Archives	Elizabeth P. Doyle	301-947-0733
	edoyle3233@aol.com	
Auditing.....	George B. Thomas, Sr.	301-460-6960
	georgebgtla@msn.com	
Budget Development	Kenneth E. Huff.....	301-622-2161
	kenandmarylou@gmail.com	
Community Service	Mary D'Ovidio.....	240-246-7818
	ldovidio01@comcast.net	
Consumer Education.....	Elizabeth P. Doyle	301-947-0733
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye	301-598-5480
Co-Chairs	geolakaye@gmail.com	
	Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
	patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	
Insurance and Benefits.....	J. Thomas Hickman	301-929-9660
Co-Chairs	CTMAR28@yahoo.com	
	Gerald W. Johnson.....	301-466-1714
	jsilverspring5@aol.com	
	Stephen M. Raucher.....	301-460-9092
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Legislative	Fred S. Evans	301-424-5169
	fredevans1970@gmail.com	
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan.....	301-253-6099
Co-Chairs	jcjdonovan@aol.com	
	Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
	patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	
Membership.....	Juliette Trevino	301-460-9670
	jgtrevino@comcast.net	
Newsletter Editor	Carol M. Dahlberg	301-253-2212
	jdahlberg2@verizon.net	
Nominating.....	William J. Barrett, Jr.....	301-460-4342
	Wjbarrettjr@aol.com	
Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary	301-869-0057
	nearynic@msn.com	
Political Action	LeeAnn Kaye	301-598-5480
	geolakaye@gmail.com	
Public Relations	Fred S. Evans	301-424-5169
	fredevans1970@gmail.com	
Recognition	Joan Donovan.....	301-253-6099
	jcjdonovan@aol.com	
Scholarship	Joy G. Schwab	301-253-3294
Co-Chairs	joyschw35@verizon.net	
	Ann Eberly	301-766-7550
	anneberly36@myactv.net	
Trips.....	Frieda J. Price.....	301-926-2286
Co-Chairs	fjprice@verizon.net	
	Mary Ann Davis.....	301-253-6256
	giddygam@verizon.net	
	Nickie Neary.....	301-869-0057
	nearynic@msn.com	
Louise S. Walker.....	Kenneth E. Huff	301-622-2161
Scholarship	kenandmarylou@gmail.com	
MRSPA Membership.....	J. Thomas Hickman	301-929-9660
Recruitment Chair	CTMAR28@yahoo.com	

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: The Board of Directors meets monthly at 9:30 am except July. All MCPSRA members are welcome to the meetings held in Room 120 in CESC on these dates:

- December 3, 2015
- January 7, 2016
- February 4, 2016
- March 3, 2016
- April 7, 2016
- May 5, 2016
- June 2, 2016

LUNCHEON DATE: Business meetings and luncheons are held four times a year at Normandie Farms, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Please join your fellow MCPS Retirees for an afternoon of food, conversation and learning new things. The dates are as follows:

- Thursday, February 18, 2016
- Thursday, April 21, 2016
- Thursday, June 16, 2016

IN MEMORIAM

Wendell W. Backus
 Maxine B. Benson
 Jeanne O. Briggs
 John O. Diggs
 Gerald P. Frick
 Theodore S. Hunt, Jr.
 Helen Kane
 Janet M. Leighty
 Judith L. Leitner
 Ida B. Leivick
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 Amanda S. Winters
 Margaret M. Wydro

WEBSITE: Check the MCPSRA website for latest information: www.MCPSRETIRES.org.

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Welcome to Our New Members

- Join us for lunch and socialization at Normandie Farm on Thursday, February 18, 2016.
- Volunteer for a committee by calling the committee chair. (See page 2)
- Make a difference in a student's life by tutoring at a school close to you.

Dolores V. Espinoza	9907 Julliard Drive	Bethesda, MD 20817	301 530-6119
Vicki L. Frank	2117 Keysville-Frederick County Rd	Keymar, MD 21757	301 908-1648
Judith Herr	8012 Maple Ridge Road	Bethesda, MD 20814	301 656-9218
Aloha E. Keylor	12033 Montrose Village Terrace	Rockville, MD 20852	301 468-6980
Marcia Marni Miller	18750 Cross Country Lane	Gaithersburg, MD 20879	
Keith D. Snyder	10532 Dubarry Drive	Brookesville, MD 20833	301 774-1525
Barbara Vivona	7206 Rollingwood Drive	Chevy Chase, MD 20815	301 913-9376
Martha Young	1209 Crockett Lane	Silver Spring, MD 20904	
Aminta B. Carter	16905 Federal Hill Court	Bowie, MD 20716	301-218-7580
Anna Colosi	19320 Madison House Street	Olney, MD 20832	917-733-1729
Robin Confino	855 Flagler Drive	Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-977-0045
Kenneth N. Cudd	4219 Charley Forest Street	Olney, MD 20832	301-655-9935
Joanne Engel	523 Shiloh Springs Road	Rutledge, TN 37861	240-888-2447
Sally A. Fasman	3315 Wisconsin Ave, NW Apt. 401	Washington, DC 20016	202-450-6549
Ronnie S. Fields	411 Winding Rose Drive	Rockville, MD 20850	301-762-6678
James Finch	9330 Penns Hill Road	La Plata, MD 20646	301-392-6071
Clare Borjes Garrett	317 Alfandre Street	Gaithersburg, MD 20878	240-893-4937
Gerard A. Green Jr.	12410 Fellowship Lane	Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-330-9828
Mary K. Greenberg	10224 Peanut Mill Drive	Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-253-0548
Gretchen A. Howard	11403 Rokeby Avenue #306	Garrett Park, MD 20896	301-942-1754
Wanda M. Jackson	13610 Valley Drive	Rockville, MD 20850	301-424-5395
Margaret A. Jacobs	21020 Miracle Drive	Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-325-6996
Linda L. Jordan	4123 Warner Street	Kensington, MD 20895	443-852-1486
Barbara L. Kornrich	3710 Gelderland Court	Olney, MD 20832	301-260-7997
Susan Little	4268 Knobs End Court	Ellicott City, MD 21042	410-746-9239
Mary L. Naughton	34 Bralan Court	Gaithersburg, MD 20877	301-926-7703
Virginia B. Pass	12606 Eastbourne Drive	Silver Spring, MD 20904	
Judy Pearson	1603 Crestline Road	Silver Spring, MD 20904	
Jane Reiser	520 Russell Avenue	Gaithersburg, MD 20877	301-219-5394
Virginia Ross	12805 Hammonton Road	Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-792-5178
Sharon Saylor	2203 Cedar Mill Court	Vienna, VA 22182	703-625-1401
Deborah Schindler	5513 Oakmont Avenue	Bethesda, MD 20817	301-530-6854
Linda M. Sherwood	1005 Heartfields Drive	Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-625-6511
Donna I. Weaker	12637 Timonium Terrace	North Potomac, MD 20878	301-330-8459
Mark Whipple	57 Driftstone Circle	Arden, NC 28704	828-684-6371
Nancy Zegers	17209 Falstaff Lane	Olney, MD 20832	301-774-4424

CHANGES

Elieen Bagley
803 Regal Manor Way
Sun City, FL 33573

Stanley R. Brodsky
2442 Sophia Chase Dr
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Mary Friedlander
129 Egret Court
West Palm Beach, FL. 33413

Ila Faye Funk
11052 Erhard Drive
Dallas, TX 75228

Marie G. Heck
333 Russell Ave Apt. 207
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Marguerite Hetrick
451 Sand Hill Road Apt.228
Hershey, PA 17033

Mary S. Koester
6120 Cane Creek Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Paul H. Magee
3618 Little Dale Road #316
Kensington, MD 20895

Kathleen M. Maliszewski
9707 Old Georgetown Road
Apt. -2620
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-214-2211

Deborah K. Mehlferber
PO Box 249
Washington Grove, MD 20880

Sandra Metcalfe
100 Sand Trap Lane
Locust Grove, VA 22508
239-898-9901

Keith Miller
17200 Pioneer Street #E 3-4
North Fort Myers, FL 33917
239-543-6045

Edward M. Morris
1140 McKean Road
Ambler, PA 19002

Nancy Murfin
2505 Homewood Drive
Frederick, MD 21702

Elmer G. Muth
1 Meadow Street Apt. 103
Berlin, MD 21811

Amado Narvaez
234 Sedgefield Ave
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Jean Ogilvie
4340 Marseilles Ave
Sarasota, FL 34233

Ranny E. Pierce
280 Prospect Ave Apt 9F
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Joyce H. Pratt
440 Bluebell Lane Apt. 304
Roanoke, VA 24012

James R. Sadler
701 King Farm Blvd Apt. 137
Rockville, MD 20850

Geraldine K. Taylor
C/O Wendy Taylor
31 Tiemann Place Apt. 21
New York, NY 10027

Virginia G. Thompson
10608 Lakespring Way
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Elizabeth R. Wright
203 Central Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Lucile E. Doyle
11750 Asbury Circle #113
Solomons, MD 20688
410-394-3355

Mary Ann Dvorsky
27014 Camerons Run
Leesburg, FL 34748
301-219-5542

Patricia C. Parker
146 South College Row
Brevard, NC 28712
828-885-2093

Pam Menso - New Phone #
Only 301-606-6092

Diana Tjader- New Phone #-
Only - 703-430-3383

Deborah A. Fagan
7 Woodmoor Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Carol W. Gross
3209 Pickwick Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Margaret Lefever
403 Russell Ave- #706
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-987-6688

Sarah J. Hunel - New Phone #
Only 703-523-2984

Marilyn T. Allen
401 Russell Ave - #516
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Audrey C. Anderson
1422 Cedarhurst Rd
Shady Side, MD 20764

Carol Anderson Selig
2893 Hampton Circle West
Delray Beach Fl 33445 (Snow
Bird Address)

Mary E. Armstrong
28111 Camino La Ronda
San Juan, Capistrano Ca 92675

Ian Bain
907 Lake Shore Drive - #208
West Palm Beach, FL 33403

Jeffrey J. Baker
809 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

Carol V. Boyer
11317 Castlewood Court
Laurel, MD 20723

Eleanor C. Bragin
1 Dewey Lane
Pawling, NY 12564

Dorothy Crabill
1225 Havendale Blvd NW #252
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Mary Louise Dickenson
617 Manor Brook Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Frederick S. Evans - Phone # -
Only - 301-706-3993

Teresa Finny
9706 Stoneham Terr
Bethesda, MD 20817

Vernon T. Fox - Phone #- Only
239-357-1683

Maureen Goodwin
9812 Dellcastle Rd
Montgomery Village, MD
20886

Michael J. Hogue
15250 Callaway Court
Glenwood, MD 21738

Thomas J. Jackson
1728 Peninsula Glen Court
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

Leah Jaffee
33585 Windswept Dr
Millsboro, DE 19966

Gerald W. James
2162 Silver Re Drive - Box 59
Lakeland, FL 33810
863-450-2727

William Ryan Kirtland
5 Hatsawap Rd
Cambridge, MD 21613

Phyllis L. Knight
3620 Littledale Rd - #104
Kensington, MD 20895

Audrey M. Leslie
4419 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Charles M. Matlock
- C
Waynesboro Pa 17268-7993

Eleanor McHargue
6609 Lisa Lane
Bowie, MD 20720

Deidre Y. Morgan
19447 Rayfield Drive
Germantown, MD 20874

Sally O'Neal
415 Russell Ave - #1012
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Marjorie B. Parce
10203 Greenfield St
Kensington, MD 20895

Robert A. Pine
1700 Bou Ave - Suite 1
Toms River, NJ 08757

Carol L. Reinsberg
9833 Veirs Dr
Rockville, MD 20850

Rebecca Sanderoff
10227 SW Yellowwood Ave
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987

Marsha J. Schiffman
44586 Granite Run Terr
Ashburn, VA 201478

Jacqueline A. Simpson
2167 Astoria Circle - #104

Carol B. Soloman
9613 Atterbury Lane
Frederick, MD 21704

Frank Stewart
113 Lassiter Circle
Finksburg, MD 21048

Linda M. Stolba
7431 Timothy Way
Easton, MD 21601

Rita Peskowitz
9134 Sunlight Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77070

Barron L. Stroud
3100 North Leisure World Blvd
#502
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Grace J. Tigani
203 Kingfisher Cove
Woodstock, GA 30188

Robert L. Turner
3264 Geranium Court
Adamstown, MD 21710

Delores I. Wardwell
14328 Allee Lane
Lewes, DE 19958

Helene Wheeler
331 Stratton Drive
Medina, OH 44256

New Phone # Only-

Daniel J. Vodzak- 304-274-0964

Please inform Membership Chair
Juliette Trevino of changes in
your name, address or phone
number by mailing it to
MCPSRA, P.O. Box 4367,
Rockville, MD 20849-4367
or by
e-mail at
jgtrevino@comcast.net



THE KEY TO OUR PROJECT'S SUCCESS

As we embark on the thirteenth year of our Toolkits, Books, and Backpacks Project, we look back on its remarkable success and forward to its continuation in the years to come for as long as the need for it exists. Through the generosity, caring, and commitment of the many individuals who have contributed to this project, we have been able to assemble and distribute nearly 14,000 toolkits of school supplies to kindergartners who have attended the Title I Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning Program (ELO SAIL) over the past 12 years. In addition, thousands of gently used books have been collected as well as 8,800 new books purchased and given to the needy children in grades 1 - 5 during the years of the project's existence. Over 225 backpacks of school supplies have also been presented to homeless children attending Title I summer school. There are more and more families in our county experiencing economic hardships than ever before, thus the need for our project has never been greater.

From its humble beginning in the summer of 2003, during which 800 toolkits were assembled and distributed, to this coming summer when we anticipate a request for 1,500, if not more, our project has grown dramatically in scope and magnitude. Throughout its years of rapid and continual growth, there has been one key to our project's success that has remained constant throughout its many years of existence and that has been Orlando ("Lanny") Taylor at the Department of Materials Management. Lanny's unfailing commitment each summer to the successful completion of this project is the driving force that assures that every summer school Title I kindergartner who needs a toolkit will get one -- and on time! His role in our project is multifaceted and never ending. It would be next to impossible to list all that he does but this will provide a pretty good picture: he arranges for the pick up of the hundreds of plastic shoe boxes from Target, provides warehouse space in which to assemble and store the toolkits, obtains the best price and orders the more than 17 items that go in each kit, provides space to store and to bag more than 60,000 plastic bottle caps, arranges for additional personnel to help pack the kits when needed (who have included his own daughter Brandee and her friend Kayla), provides staff and coordinates the delivery of the requested number of toolkits to each of the more than 24 Title I summer school sites, and is a true stabilizing and inspiring team player when things get hectic, timelines seem impossible to meet, and hope starts to waver for the successful completion of the project for another summer. "Don't worry," Lanny says. "Have we ever failed? Everything will get done, okay?" He is the most important person who keeps our project going each year.

So, it was with great pleasure that Lanny was invited to be our guest at our MCPSRA luncheon on October 29 to be presented with a plaque expressing our deepest appreciation for his dedicated commitment and hard work that have been the keys to our project's success for 12 consecutive years. It was a recognition well-deserved and long overdue! It is our hope that we will have the privilege and pleasure of working with Lanny for MANY years to come! The team is ready and eager to go for another year!

That being said, we cannot hope to continue our project without your commitment and generosity as well. We MUST raise sufficient funds to plan for next summer's project. PLEASE, fill out the form below and send in a tax-deductible contribution as soon as possible. We have made such a positive impact on the lives of so many of our county's needy children for 12 years now. Let's make the 13th year our luckiest and best!

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 _____

_____ Please do **NOT** include my name on the toolkit's label

YOUR TRAVEL INFORMATION

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SHARE IT, ALONG WITH SPECIFIC TRIP INFORMATION, WITH YOUR GUESTS.

1. We all travel at our own risk.
2. There is always some walking involved as we travel. Read each itinerary carefully, keeping in mind your own capabilities.
3. Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
4. Trips are open to members, their families and friends (adults).
5. Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the coach.
6. About three to five days before a day trip, participants are called to remind them of the day and departure time of the trip. For overnight coach trips, about two weeks prior to the date of departure, participants will get a letter with up-to-date information, including parking details. One baggage tag per person will be mailed to each participant.
7. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include name and date of trip on check.
8. Send check with completed reservation form.
9. Your reservation is definite upon receipt of deposit/full payment, whichever is required. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants needed by the published deadline, your check will be returned to you. Feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
10. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
11. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
12. **We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.**

Those interested in insurance for overnight trips should call Ellen at Eyre Tour and Travel at 301-854-6600, ext. 3252 or 410-442-1330, ext. 3252 or 1-800-321-3973, ext. 3252.

TRAVEL CO-CHAIRS

Frieda J. Price 301-926-2286
105 N. Summit Ave. #4
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935
Mary Ann Davis 301-253-6256
23509 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017
Nickie Neary 301-869-0057
15461 Peach Leaf Drive
North Potomac, MD 20878-2377

NOTICE – PARKING FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS.

As of 2016, pick up for overnight trips will be at the Georgia Avenue Park and Ride (same lot that we pick up for day trips). People coming from out of the area and in the vicinity of the Eyre Bus terminal can arrange to park and board the coach at Eyre location in Glenelg, Md. - Rt. 70 to Rt. 32 S. 5 miles to terminal. 13600 Triadelphia Rd.
For arrangements, timing and information call Ellen at Eyre. 1-800-321-3973 x 3252.

MCPSRA TRIPS in 2016

All trips are listed and described on the website:
www.mcpsretirees.org

April 11	Odyssey-Cherry Blossom Luncheon Cruise
May 17-20	Biltmore in the Springtime
June 14	Victorian Parlor, Spring Grove, PA High Tea Luncheon Markets at Shrewsbury
July 13	Sight and Sound Show Theatre- Samson
August 15	Harrisburg, PA (? Feb. newsletter)
September	???
October	Maine (Feb. newsletter)

PLEASE MAKE SEPARATE CHECKS FOR TRIPS and PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT. We have to make commitments by dates indicated so this is very important in having a trip go or having to cancel which we do not like to do.

2016 CRUISES

March 30-April 9 Royal Caribbean Cruise Line
"Grandeur of the Seas" EASTERN CARIBBEAN: Ports of Call: Baltimore; Labadee, Haiti; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Phillipsburg, St. Maarten. For brochure, pricing, cabin selections and other information, contact **GRAND AMERICAN TOURS 1-800-423-0247**. Identify yourself with **MCPSRA**.

April 22-30 American Eagle MISSISSIPPI CRUISE
As the paddlewheel laps against the water, a trumpet sounds and you find yourself on a cruise into the heart of Dixie visiting historic cities and Civil War battlefields along the way.

Approximate Cost: \$5135.00 Cat A - no balcony
\$6445.00 Cat AAL - with balcony

Includes: Round trip airfare (Southwest Airlines), transfers, 1 night pre-cruise, 7-night cruise, tour of New Orleans, city tour and Graceland in Memphis

Insurance suggested and highly recommended.

Cabins are on a first-come basis. We cannot reserve cabins. For additional information and reservations, contact Eyre: 1-800-321-3973 X 3252 or Ellen: 301-854-6600 X 3252

September 15-24 Royal Caribbean Cruise Line "Grandeur of the Seas" CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND. Ports of Call: Baltimore; Boston; Portland, Maine; St. John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia. For brochure, pricing, cabin selections and other information, contact **GRAND AMERICAN TOURS 1-800-423-0247**. Identify yourself with **MCPSRA**.

SPECIAL NOTE: All trips require some walking, some more extensive than others. Theatre trips usually have less walking; overnight trips with lots of tours and sightseeing

require more walking. Trips like the Biltmore, a large home with steps and gardens, require much more walking. HOWEVER, you may do as much or as little as you see fit. Study each itinerary to help you understand and judge the physical activities involved.

ODYSSEY- CHERRY BLOSSOM LUNCHEON CRUISE

Monday, April 11, 2016

Enjoy a leisurely luncheon cruise along the Potomac River for a breathtaking view of the famous Cherry Blossoms (hopefully in full bloom like they were in 2015) by the Tidal Basin and along the river.

9:00 am Depart Georgia Ave Park and Ride
 10:00 am Visit FDR and/or ML King Memorial located on Tidal Basin
 11:00 am Board the ODYSSEY
 2:00 pm Cruise Ends.
 Depart for Home

3:00 pm Arrive back at the park and ride
Included: Round trip Eyre motor coach transportation, lunch, cruise, tolls, taxes, gratuities

Not included: Gratuity for coach operator

Cost: \$99.00 per person

Due Date: March 3, 2016

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price
 105 N. Summit Ave. #4
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

BILTMORE IN THE SPRINGTIME

Ashville, NC

May 17-20, 2016

Day 1

6:30 am Depart Georgia Ave. Park and Ride
 Rest and lunch stops enroute. Lunch on own
 5:30 pm Hotel check-in. Dinner included this evening

Day 2

9:00 am Depart for Biltmore, the beautiful and unusual estate of George W. Vanderbilt which first opened on Christmas Eve 1895. The 250-room French chateau is filled with treasures Vanderbilt collected during his world travels. The house is the largest private home in the U. S. The formal gardens are vibrant in the spring with varieties of beautiful flowers and plants.

12:20 Lunch at Deerpark
 2:30 Biltmore Winery tasting plus Antler Village
 4:30 Return to hotel
 5:30 Depart for the Blue Ridge Mountain Opry Dinner show. Each performance is a celebration of music, song and dance. Taste some of the finest Southern style barbecue in Western North Carolina and enjoy a fun-filled evening

Day 3

Breakfast at hotel

9:00 am Guided tour of Ashville including Folk Art Center and Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor's Center
 Lunch on own in Ashville
 3:30 Return to hotel
 4:30 Depart for Chimney Rock State Park with the signature 315-foot spire overlooking Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure
 Enjoy a cookout in the Meadows
 Finish the evening with a pontoon boat tour of the scenic Lake Lure. Narrated highlights include the film location used for the movie "Dirty Dancing."

Day 4

8:00 am After breakfast, check out and depart for home
 6:30 pm Approximate arrival time at Georgia Ave Park and Ride

Cost: \$735.00 per person double, \$885.00 single
Included: Round trip motor coach transportation, 3 nights' accommodations, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch (Deerpark), 3 dinners, self-guided day tour at the Biltmore and the winery, baggage handling (1 piece/person), taxes and gratuities.

Not included: Gratuity for coach operator and local guide

Due Date: \$200.00 deposit by January 27, 2016

Balance Due: March 10, 2016

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price
 105 N. Summit Ave. #4
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877



VICTORIAN PARLOR – SPRING GROVE, PA HIGH TEA LUNCHEON MARKETS AT SHREWSBURY

June 14, 2016

The Victorian Parlor is one of the finest in Pa. We will experience the grace and elegance of High Tea served in 1800's Victorian Style. We will learn the history of the Parlor, see the Portrait Gallery and visit the gift shops plus the beautiful yard.

Later we will visit the popular Markets at Shrewsbury

9:00 am Depart Georgia Ave. Park and Ride
 11:00 am Arrive Victorian Parlor,
 HIGH TEA LUNCHEON

The tea luncheon includes: Fresh fruit salad, garden salad, decadent dish of sweets, a variety of sandwiches, bowl of soup and a scrumptious dessert.

1:30 pm Depart for Shrewsbury Markets
 3:00 pm Depart for home
 5:00 pm Arrive back at the park and ride

Included: Round trip Eyre transportation, Victorian tea, tolls, taxes, and gratuities.

Not included: Gratuity for coach operator

Cost: \$83.00 per person

Due Date: March 3, 2016

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price
 105 N. Summit Ave. #4
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877



SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE SHOW

SAMSON

July 13, 2016

10:00 am Depart Georgia Ave. Park and Ride
 12:30 pm Lunch at Hershey Farms
 2:45 pm Showtime
 5:00 pm Depart for home.
 7:30 pm Arrive back at the park and ride

This is truly an amazing show that you will not want to miss. Check the web site for an interesting and informative description of the show.

Included: Round trip Eyre transportation, lunch, show, tolls, taxes, and gratuities.

Not included: Gratuity for coach operator

Cost: \$124.00 per person

Due Date: June 3, 2016

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price
 105 N. Summit Ave. #4
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

MRSPA CONSUMER CONNECTION

Save on Everyday Purchases from Abenity's Website

Did you know that you can print grocery store coupons from Abenity's website? Just go to the "Everyday Living" section under Abenity and you'll find the Grocery Coupon section where you'll see hundreds of free coupons to print. They are even divided by category such as "All Categories" (specifically Household, Health Care, etc.) or even by Brand (Oral B, Old Spice, Kellogg's).

If you're a coupon clipper, you don't even need the Sunday newspaper. It's all right there by category and you select what you want to print.

Don't forget to check Abenity when you're looking for great deals on gift cards for local restaurants too!!

Paying Too Much for Shipping

If you plan to do your shopping online, you can avoid paying for shipping by having your purchases shipped to a retailer's brick-and-mortar store or by taking advantage of free shipping promotions. You can find free shipping codes at FreeShipping.org, or you can take advantage of Free Shipping Day on December 18th when hundreds of merchants will offer free shipping on all purchases with guaranteed delivery by Christmas Eve.

Find the Best Prices on Medicine

An ABC news report recently gave some great information about shopping around for your prescription medicine. There are two sites that are free to use - GoodRx and LowestMeds. Both of these websites allow you to put in the name of the medication and the zip code where you live and it gives you a price comparison of pharmacies in your area. You will be amazed to see that some of these medicines are sometimes twice as expensive from one place to the next.

Shop around and save some money!

(November-December 2015 edition - MRSPA)

RESERVATION FORMS

ODYSSEY- CHERRY BLOSSOM LUNCHEON CRUISE* Monday, April 11, 2016**

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____ *Cell phone # _____

Make check payable to **MCPSRA**. Mail to Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877--
-----cut here-----

BILTMORE IN THE SPRINGTIME* May 17-20, 2016**

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____ if paying by check

I am paying by CC to Eyre _____ 1-800-321-3973 x 3252

Please, also, send reservation form to Frieda if paying by CC.

*Cell phone # _____

Make check payable to **MCPSRA**. Mail to Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
-----cut here-----

VICTORIAN PARLOR, HIGH TEA LUNCHEON, MARKETS AT SHREWSBURY June 14, 2016

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____ *Cell phone # _____

Make check payable to **MCPSRA**. Mail to Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
-----cut here-----

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE SHOW - SAMSON. July 13, 2016

*Name _____ Phone # _____ Member of MCPSRA? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Phone # _____ If not, guest of: _____

Total # Reservations _____ Total \$ Amt Enclosed _____ *Cell phone # _____

Make check payable to **MCPSRA**. Mail to Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877



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DATED MATERIAL



MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting

NORMANDIE FARM

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 noon

Next Luncheon Date

February 18, 2016

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

This is the December 2015 issue.