



UPDATE

Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association

Vol. 40, No. 1
February 2014

From the President

It was good

to see so many of you at the Fall Luncheon Meeting at Columbus Gardens on October 15, 2013. We had a wonderful program. First, we



Edna Harris-Kurre

were entertained by two of the best high-school choirs in Baltimore County from Patapsco Magnet School for the Arts. They “razzled” and “dazzled” us. Some members were given roses as a token of reaching out to the community with love in their hearts. They were professionally dressed in appropriate attire which glistened.

Our guest speaker was Sean McComb, also from Patapsco Magnet School for the Arts. In listening to Sean speak, it is no wonder that he not only won the title of being Baltimore County’s Teacher of the Year, but he also received the distinction and the honor of being voted the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

A new member was welcomed at the luncheon. Let’s keep those new members coming. We are slowly but surely adding new members. If you know of any newly retired

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FROM THE BOOK SHELF

Black History Month

arrives in February and listed are several good reads about the Movement that does not center on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This February 2014 should bring the remembrance of Jackie Robinson about whom MLK did say, “He was doing sit-ins before there were sit-ins, he was doing freedom rides before there were freedom rides.” Jonathan Eig’s *Opening Day* is the story of Robinson’s first season and is a recent publication. Rachael Robinson did heavily endorse this book.

Also, this would be a good time to become reacquainted with Emmett “Bobo” Till. A fourteen-year-old Chicago

youngster who was visiting his cousins in Money, Mississippi, and was brutally beaten, tortured, and executed; he was weighted with an old cotton gin fan and thrown into the Tallahatchie River. Emmett Till’s murder in 1955 became one of those transformative moments in the African-American’s struggle for civil rights. He preceded Rosa Parks. Two other informative reads are *The Children* by David Halberstam and *Worse Than Slavery* by David Oshinsky. Halberstam introduces eighteen-year-old Diane Nash a leader of the 1960 Nashville sit-ins along with John Lewis who was severely beaten at the Selma Bridge in Alabama. Lewis now serves as the long time *continued on page 5*

BCRSIPA Calendar

- February 18..... Executive Board at St. Isaac Jogues**
- March 18..... Executive Board at St. Isaac Jogues**
- March 21 ... United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum**
- April 8..... Annual Meeting & Lunch @ Columbus Gardens**
- May 5-7..... 2014 MRSPA Event/Annual Meeting**
Double Tree Hotel, Annapolis
- May 20..... Executive Board Meeting@ St Isaac Jogues**

SHARE WITH A FRIEND – Invite them to join us

MRSPA members are asked to share this copy of the newsletter with a friend who has not joined MRSPA. You may print the newsletter from the website: *mrspa@mrspa.org* and share this page with a friend, asking them to join MRSPA and your local association. Encourage them to join as a continuing member by authorizing annual dues deduction.

MRSPA — Application for Membership

Please give this application to a friend who is not currently a member of the association.

Name: _____ Local Unit: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Email: _____ Soc. Sec. #: _____ Birthdate: _____

Please authorize dues deduction, or make check payable to: **MRSPA**.

MRSPA Dues: \$35 + \$15 **Local Dues:** (see chart below) = **Total:** \$50

I would like to authorize dues deduction from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS). I understand that my social security number is required for this payment option. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA).

Signature _____ SSN: _____ Date _____

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Several get-togethers ago we completed a questionnaire concerning day-trips. What happened to the idea? I had thoughts that something was going to happen and I looked forward to touring either the Philadelphia Museum of Art or the Barnes Museum. Will there ever be a day trip?

— JS

Janice Piccinini joins us

You have to remember Janice. She was TABCO president from 1979 through 1981 and later led the MSTA until 1985. Janice took on State Senator Mickey Steinberg over the increase in teachers' required payment into their retirement. Through this controversy she made MSTA (now MSEA) a viable player in state politics. Later, Janice defeated incumbent Frank Kelly as she ran on strictly on women's issues.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT

Please bring one (1) item below to the Fall Luncheon:

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

(Assistance Center of Towson Churches)

- canned pasta (meals with meat)
- powdered milk
- peanut butter, jelly
- canned beef stew, Spam
- canned peas
- individual size cans/cartons of juice
- any nonperishable item such as rice, cereal or boxed potatoes
- small, hotel-size bottles of shampoo
- toothpaste/toothbrush
- toilet paper, hand lotion

If you prefer, a check may be written payable to the **Assistance Center of Towson Churches**

SCHOOL SUPPLY ITEMS NEEDED

- pencils (new), pens
- school boxes
- glue sticks, paper
- marbleized black composition books

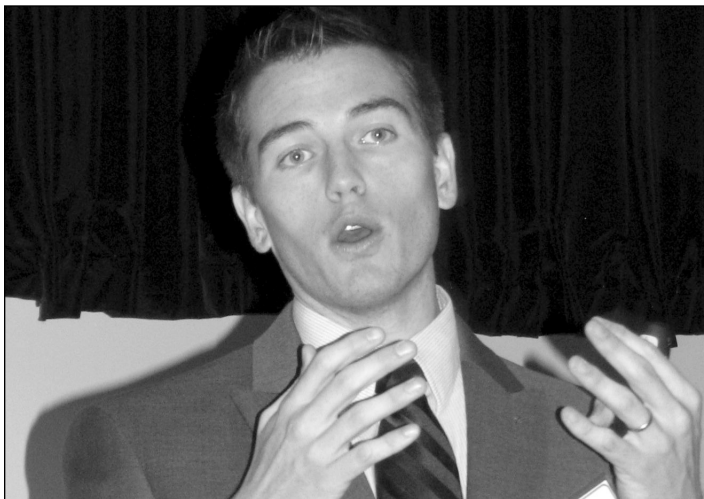
...and they all screamed for ice cream



Retirees lined up for double scoops of vanilla ice cream which they topped with chocolate or butter scotch, whipped cream and chocolate chips, various nuts or candy chips. For many this exercise raised memories of sharing sundaes with friends at the corner drug store. Hard to believe, but several of these folks returned for seconds. Many tried and several were requested, but no “doggie bags” were issued for ice cream.



At the luncheon, retired member Janice Likens approached Maryland’s Teacher of the year Sean McComb to offer congratulations. The two also discussed classroom ideas.



Sean McComb, an English teacher at Patapsco Magnet School for the Arts, and Maryland and Baltimore County’s Teacher of the year for 2013, speaks at the October luncheon of the BCRSPA. Mr. McComb also projected a Power Point that highlighted he and his wife escorting students to China and some of his other educational activities at Patapsco Magnet School.

In Remembrance



Johanne Collins

Genevieve Collins	Joy Everett
James Harrison	Jean Perry
Patricia Rassa	Gerry Gaudet

Dr. Walter Snyder is best remembered as the BCPS Personnel Director; he was also dean of the personnel directors on the East Coast. Dr. Snyder served in the US Army during World War II and spent time as a German prisoner of war.

Emma Ziegler	Ernest Barger
Barbara Topper	Robert Broderick
Scott Tarner	Eva Brooks
Joseph Colley	Gene Crouse
John Dennis	Mary Rowland

Louis Brocato served as the data processing guru for the county and gave classroom talks to county students about the future. He claimed, “If you could live to the year 2000, you had a chance of living forever—there should be enough spare parts out there by then. There’s already synthetic blood.”

Robert Robbins	Mary Duckworth
David Ford	George Phillips
Rodney Gobrecht	Eleanor Gross
Hazel Nelson	Phillip Hebrank
Frederick Miller	Sally McClelland

James Hackman was the man with commanding voice during the Board of Education meetings. And, James could “wax Poetic” at the “drop of a hat.” His repertoire included “Casey at the Bat,” the Gettysburg Address, “The Highwayman.” He could memorize poetry quickly and sang with and served as emcee for the Chorus of the Chesapeake.

Charles Morgan	Elizabeth K. Nelson
Pauline Hobbs	Maynard Keadle
Dorothy Love	Mildred Kroneberger

From the Consumer Education Communicator

A publication of the MRSPA
Consumer Education Committee

Winter Safety Tips

Outside Safety — When going outside be sure to dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes that are lightweight. This will help keep you warm while pulling the moisture away from your body.

Wear a hat to keep your body-heat in and a scarf over your mouth to prevent cold air from entering your lungs.

Mittens are warmer than gloves, making them a better choice for hand protection and all areas of your body should be covered to guard against frostbite.

Snow Shoveling — Shoveling snow is inevitable if you do not own a snow blower, but it is hard work and you should be in good health before attempting it. Be sure to pace yourself and rest frequently to avoid overexertion.

When lifting, do so with your leg muscles rather than your back to prevent an avoidable back injury. Remember, a heart attack can occur at any age—if you expe-

rience any chest or arm pain, stop immediately, and go inside.

Inside Safety — Before the winter season begins, have all your heaters checked to ensure they are in good working order. Inspect your carbon monoxide detectors as well especially if you use propane or kerosene to heat your home.

Driving Safety — During the winter months, keep your gas tank full to prevent ice from building up in the tank and fuel lines. Inspect your windshield wipers, replacing them if they are worn and keep your wiper fluid full at all times. Pack a winter storm survival kit in case you become stranded.

Before You Leave — Tell someone where you are going, how you are getting there, and the approximate time of your arrival. If you become stranded, do not walk for help. Instead place a cloth on your window or antenna to signal your need for assistance.

5 Things to do instead of spending money

1. **Get organized.** Throw away or file old paperwork and other paper items, clean your computer's hard drive, and/or find a permanent, out-of-the-way place for anything lying around the house.
2. **Treat yourself to a spa day** — at home. Use cooled morning coffee grounds as a full-body exfoliator, soak your feet, put a warm washcloth over your face, and turn on relaxing music.
3. **Repair instead of replace.** Do you really need a new faucet, or could you switch out a leaky seal?
4. **Come up with new outfit combinations.** If you're tired of your attire, pull out your clothes and come up with new ways to wear items.
5. **Rearrange your house.** Freshen up the look of any room by moving around furniture and wall decor.

Be an "early bird"...

send in your reservation for the Annual Spring Luncheon Meeting today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Scholarship Donation: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Make checks payable to BCRSPA.

Send reservation(s) and \$23.00 check(s) to:

Mr. Clair Price, 4862 Brightleaf Court, Baltimore, MD 21237-4946

April 8, 2014

Book Shelf...

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congressman from Georgia. Orlinsky chronicles Mississippi's Parchman Prison where inmates had to plant and pick cotton in the Mississippi Delta for the state. The State of Mississippi also rented inmates to the prison systems of Florida, Alabama, and North Carolina.

— Ed Veit

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BCRSPA

305 East Joppa Road
Towson, MD 21286-3252

New Members

The BCRSPA Executive Board and the General Membership welcome the following new members:

Jane Barranger	Margaret Graves
Deborah Fabiani	Fran Holstein
Emma Goff	Thomas Johnson
Merry McCracken	Joyce Percell
Andrea Naft	Frances Powell
Ellen Naftaniel	Mary Jayne Read
George Newberry	Jean Rezek
Rose Oakman	Bonnie Schneider
Elizabeth Parker	Janice Strevig
Patricia Vogel	

We invite you to join your friends and colleagues at our Spring Luncheon and meeting to be held at Columbus Gardens April 8, 2014. More information and a reservation form may be found elsewhere in this publication.

— *Charlotte Price Member Accounting Chair*

Member Accounting News

Our decline in membership continues! March, 2007 found us with 2,331 members. March, 2013 we had 1,945 members; a decline of nearly 400 in six years! To this point in the 2013–14 membership year we have added 36 new members, however, 42 of our members have passed away. If you are aware of a BCPS retiree who is not yet a member, please invite him/her to join. Benefit information may be accessed by calling the BCRSPA Answering Service at 410-847-9700.

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2013–14. Your continued support is not only beneficial to you, but also to future retirees!

Ellen Naftaniel joins us

Ellen, as a new member, joined us at the October meeting; she retired in June from Fort Garrison Elementary School where she was teaching 5th Grade. She claims it took her about an hour to adjust to retired life. She pictures herself babysitting grandchildren and she has volunteered for the Cemetery Committee at Beth Israel.