Montgomery County Public Schools

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

Volume 2014-15, Issue #3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, and a belated Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2016 is already here. I hope you and your family had a happy and restful holiday season and that you are off and running on a fun filled and productive New Year.

At this time of year many of us make New Year's resolutions. As your president, I'd like to share some of my suggested resolutions, and urge you to adopt as many of them as you can as your own.

- 1. Whereas, membership in a strong retirees association helps to keep the legislature focused on continuing, funding, and strengthening our defined benefits retirement plan (for us and those who will follow us into our well-deserved retirement), I hereby resolve to maintain and promote membership in MCPSRA and MRSPA as the best "Retirement Insurance Policy" we can have.
- 2. Whereas, membership in a strong retirees association helps to keep the Board of Education and County Government focused on continuing and improving our retiree health benefits, **I hereby resolve** to maintain, promote and participate in active membership in MCPSRA.
- 3. Whereas, we are committed to assisting MCPS in providing the best possible educational experience for all children, **I hereby resolve** to increase my volunteer support of MCPS schools and programs.
- 4. Whereas, MCPSRA continues to actively support the students and staff of MCPS via its Special Projects and Scholarship programs, I hereby resolve to help support these programs by volunteering my time and through my increased financial support.
- 5. Whereas MCPSRA recognizes our collective and individual responsibility to the Montgomery

FEBRUARY 2016

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County community, **I hereby resolve** to help support programs such as the Josiah Henson Park by volunteering my time and through my financial support.

- 6. Whereas, being an MCPS Retiree allows me to have the time to participate in fun filled travel and social events, I hereby resolve to take full advantage of the social and educational opportunities provided by MCPSRA's trips and luncheon and social programs.
- 7. Whereas, none of the above can continue to occur without he dedicated time and effort of MCPSRA members volunteering to serve the association as board members, volunteers for special projects, etc. I hereby resolve to increase my participation in the operation of MCPSRA.

Please read through the rest of this newsletter to find specific ways you can accomplish many of these resolutions.

See you at our Luncheon, February 18, at Normandie Farms.

Steve

Lunch at Normandie Farm with Candice Ridington

Candice Ridington is a former English teacher, performance artist, author and volunteer with the Montgomery County Historical Association. She portrays historical/literary figures for many associations and gatherings. At our February 18, 2016, luncheon, she will be performing as a Civil War nurse.

Please join us at Normandie Farm for lunch and her performance. Check out the menu on page 11 of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you to enjoying great food, wonderful conversation and interesting and informative programs.

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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

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Auditing	George B. Thomas, Sr. georgebgbtla@msn.com	301-460-6960
Budget Development	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161
Community Service	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Consumer Education	Elizabeth P. Doyle	301-947-0733
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	Gerald W. Johnson jsilverspring5@aol.com	301-466-1714
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Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-424-5169
MCPSRA Projects Co-Chairs	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Membership	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Newsletter Editor		
Nominating	William J. Barrett, Jr. Wjbarrettjr@aol.com	301-460-4342
Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary nearynic@msn.com	301-869-0057
Political Action	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
Public Relations	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-424-5169
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
Scholarship Co-Chairs	Joy G. Schwab joyschw35@verizon.net	301-253-3294
	Ann Eberly anneberly36@myactv.net	301-766-7550

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 a.m. except July. All MCPSRA members are welcome to the meetings held in Room 120 in CESC on these dates:

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 Farm, 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

CONTRIBUTE TO JOSIAH HENSON PARK AND MCPSRA WILL MATCH IT

MCPSRA has resolved to help support the establishment of the Josiah Henson Park in Bethesda. You can help too. Make your tax deductible contribution check out to <u>Montgomery Parks Foundation</u> and mail it to our Treasurer, Dr. Ken Muir, 3100 North Leisure World Blvd # 508, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906. We'll 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.



WHY DO WE DO IT?

Recently in an on line interview, I was asked to respond to a series of questions about our **Toolkits**, **Books**, **and Backpacks Project** and my involvement over the many years of its existence. After hours of reflection, I attempted to put my thoughts into words that might inspire others to become just as passionate about our project as I am. Let me share a few of my responses.

- 1.) What is your involvement with the Toolkits campaign? Why did you get involved? Shortly after retiring in 2004, I joined the MCPS Retirees Association and learned of the association's initiative to provide toolkits of school supplies to economically challenged Title I summer school kindergartners. When I retired and walked out of my classroom for the last time, I did not leave behind my love for nor my commitment to the children of Montgomery County. I knew that there must be something out there that I could champion to continue to be a contributor to the well-being and education of children and here it was!
- 2.) Why is the toolkits campaign important or valuable to the MCPS community, to you? I have always known that in every school district and in every community across this nation there are many, many children from families that experience the misfortune of living with the hardships of poverty and need. But I had no concept just how many families right here in Montgomery County face this every day until I got involved with this project. People have to know how devastating it is to these parents when their children get their school supply lists in the fall and they have no means to go out and buy these supplies. These children are entitled to the same chance as any other child in our school system. Every child is special! "Somebody must have thought I was pretty special!" said one little boy to me as I handed him his kit and told him that someone had donated the money just so he could get one. That's why this project is important to me and most especially to the children we have dedicated our lives to serve. Our future as well as theirs depends on how committed we are to their education and well-being today.
- 3.) Why did you decide to stay connected with MCPS post-employment or what inspired you to stay connected? I have always been proud to be a teacher in a county where education is considered a top priority and its school system remains top-rated throughout the entire country. It was a difficult decision to retire because I so wanted to somehow continue to touch the future by investing some of my new-found "free" time assisting children in the learning process. By joining the MCPSRA I have been able to share additional energies and talents to the benefit of not only retired school personnel but children county-wide. When formulating my answers to these as well as many other questions, I felt that I was speaking for all of our members as well who have worked on or supported this project over the past twelve years. I wanted others to know just Why do we do it?

Fundraising each year is by far the most challenging aspect of the entire project was my response to another question. Hopefully, you as members of MCPSRA realize just how important our project is and will continue to support it with your time, talents, and generosity now and in the years to come. We **NEED** your commitment right now to ensure the project's success this coming summer. **PLEASE** fill out the form below and send it in along with a tax-deductible contribution as soon as possible. Thanks SO much!

Joan Donovan, Toolkits Project Co-Chair

____detach here______

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

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA Members passed away in 2015:

JANUARY:

James E. Schalimo Gloria M. Dillon Elizabeth C. Rossi Charles Thomas Bolgiano Dorothy E. Bradley Virginia B. Staubs Regina J. Cissel Margarette S. Reid Jean A. Rider Virginia O. Hall Martha P. Ward Donald R. Maxey Grace Smith

FEBRUARY:

Charlene L. Joyce Yvonne M. Hudson Anita M. Weinberger William W. Miles Mary L. Byron

MARCH:

Anita H. Wood James D. Morgan Linda Irene Hunt Noyes Dr. James W. Jacobs Anna A. Cohen Anna O. Ellin Denece M. Feldman Jessica L. Dunkley Estelle S. Stone

APRIL:

Rita M. Hawvermale Virginia L. McCauley Rosemary C. Moran Samuel E. Poole Patricia A. Coyle Mary C. Foster

MAY:

Dr. Paul L. Vance Josephine G. Bayne Alice May Koons Anne M. Cooley Mary Lee Scott

JUNE:

Imogene B. Bingaman Elizabeth B. Strickrott Viola E. Funkhouser Joseph C. Cavanaugh Joseph Dobrick Douglas Lindsay

JULY:

Dorothea Y. Bohrer Esther R. Kaufman William L. Kyle

AUGUST:

Beuford Grigg Virginia H. Isaacs James H. Taliaferro Ann J. Guthrie Joseph E. Jodl

SEPTEMBER:

Janet M. Leighty (wife of Dennis Leighty) John (Jack) O. Diggs (husband of Betty Digg Cliff Davis (husband of Mary Ann Davis) Theodore S. Hunt, Jr. (husband of Jane Hunt) Judith L. Leitner Charles J. Thomas John M. Maysak

OCTOBER:

Maxine B. Benson Amanda S. Winters Bernice J. Sorg Marjorie R. Tomlinson Wendell W. Backus John P. McKenna Gerald P. Frick Helen H. Phillips

NOVEMBER:

Gischa C. Friedman Emily S. O'Brien Charlotte M. Simos Geraldine D. Quinto Janet B. Gregan Alice C. Ball Betty M. Berger

DECEMBER:

Vivian C. Dick Lucile E. Doyle Helen F. Coyne Mary C. Alexander Paul M. Brey, Jr. Anna Lee P. Riddle (wife of Richard Riddle)

DATE OF DEATH UNKNOWN:

Helen Kane Ida B. Leivick Jean R. Lepine Otharea B. Pitts Esther Rogers Mary M. Simmons Margaret M. Wydro Louray Huang Jeanne O. Briggs

REMINDERS ABOUT THE MCPSRA TRAVEL PROGRAM



- 1. We all travel at our own risk. When signing up for one of the sponsored trips, participants accept all liability for any loss, damage or personal injury related to that trip and hold MCPSRA, its Officers and Board harmless should any accident, injury or loss occur.
- 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. PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT.** We have to make commitments by the dates indicated so this is very important in making a trip go or having to cancel for lack of participation.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include the name and date of the trip on each check. Send your check with your completed reservation form. Your reservation will be definite upon receipt of your 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. Please feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
- 9. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
- 10. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
- 11. We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.
- 12. Those interested in purchasing travel 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.

MCPSRA TRAVEL PLANS for 2016

March 30-April 9	Eastern Caribbean Cruise	
April 11	Cherry Blossom- Odyssey Cruise	
April 22-30	Mississippi River Cruise	
May 17-20	Spring Time at the Biltmore and Asheville, NC	
June 14	Victorian Parlor – High Tea and Luncheon	
July 13th	Sight and Sound Theatre SAMSON	
August 15	Harrisburg, Pa., Motor Coach, Train, River Cruise*	
September 15-24	Canada and New England Cruise	
September 11	Nationals vs Phillies*	
October 10-15	Maine +Much More*	
* Details will be in the April MCPSRA Newsletter		

<u>SPECIAL NOTICE</u>: 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 much more walking is required. HOWEVER: You may do as much or little as you see fit. Study each itinerary to help you understand and judge the physical activities involved.

NOTICE - PARKING FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS.

As of 2016, pick up for overnight trips will be at the Park and Ride, GA. Ave.—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 their 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 3253

TRIP DETAILS EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

March 30-April 9

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line "Grandeur of the Seas": 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 AMER-ICAN TOURS 1-800-423-0247. **Identify yourself** with MCPSRA.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE

American Eagle Memphis –New Orleans APRIL 22 – 30th

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.

COST: \$5,135.00 Cat A – no balcony

\$6,445.00 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.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOM-MENDED. CALL ELLEN at EYRE FOR PRICING and RESERVATIONS. Cabins are on a first come basis. We cannot reserve cabins. Eyre—1-800-321-3973 x 3252 or 301-854-6600 x3252

CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND

Grandeur of the Seas 10 Days / 9 nights September 15-24

Ports of Call: Baltimore, Boston, Portland Maine, Bar Harbor, Maine, St John, New Brunswick , Halifax, Nova Scotia, Baltimore. Call GRAND AMERICAN TOURS: 1-800-423-0247. Identify yourself with MCPSRA

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

Asheville, 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 Asheville including Folk Art Center and Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor's Center Lunch on own in Asheville
- 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 LUN-CHEON. 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

TRAVEL QUESTIONS ???

Please check our website: <u>www.mcpsra.org</u> or contact the Travel Committee 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



Education the Great Equalizer

Dr. George B. Thomas

This new book, by or own Dr. George Thomas, Founder of the MCPS Saturday School program, documents how this successful program has reached out to boost the academic skills and self-confidence of many MCPS Students. It will be available for sale to MCPS Members at the April 21st Luncheon.





Miracle Ear Hearing Aid Centers of Montgomery County

Gaithersburg/Rockville/King Farm 301.977.8695

North Bethesda

301.365.6270

Silver Spring 301.384.4245

www.miracle-ear-bethesda.com

RESERVATION FORMS

ODYSSEY- CHERRY BLO	SSOM LUNCHEON CRUISE—Ma	onday, April 11, 2016	
*Name	Phone #	Member of MCPSRA? Yes	_No
Name	Phone #	lf not, guest of:	
Total # Reservations	Total \$ Amt Enclosed	*Cell phone #	
		05 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD	
	NGTIME—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	e 1-800-321-3973 x 3252		
Please, also, send reservati	on form to Frieda if paying by CC.		
*Cell phone #			
• •		05 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MI	
		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 #	
	-	05 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MI	
	cut here- EATRE SHOW - <i>SAMSON</i> —July 1	3, 2016	
		Member of MCPSRA? Yes	No
		lf not, guest of:	
		*Cell phone #	
		05 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MI	

MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2016 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.	Menu Choices: Chicken Marsala	\$23.50
Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.	Beef Bourguigon	\$23.50
Luncheon: 12:00 Noon	Grilled Salmon w/Bearnaise	\$23.50
Program	Angel Hair Pasta w/roasted vegetables	\$20.00
All entrees include Salad Normandie, popovers, vegetable of the day, dessert, tea, coffee, soda. Cash bar available		

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Thursday, February 18, 2016

Circle Entrée Choice

Name:	Phone:	Chicker	n Beef
e-mail address:		Fish	Vegetarian
Name:	Phone:	Chicker	n Beef
e-mail address:		Fish	Vegetarian
Total amount enclosed:			

RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY <u>FRIDAY</u>, <u>February 12, 2016</u>. Make check payable to <u>MCPSRA</u>.

Mail to: LEEANN KAYE 3210 N. LEISURE WORLD BLVD. #306 SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

FOR INFORMATION:LEEANN KAYE 301-598-5480, OR TRISH BENDLER 301-540-5160GEOKAYE@GMAIL.COMPATRICIA_BENDLER@COMCAST.NET

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THANKS.

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 Rockville, MD

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 February 2016 issue.