

HEART
Gail Phillips, Editor
2716 Mt. Olive Court
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, May 21, 2019
12 NOON
St. James UMC
(Rt. 99 just east of Rt. 32)

FYI...

- ❖ There will be a table set up right inside the entrance to the lunchroom at the church to sell fifty-fifty raffle tickets for the scholarship fund. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.
- ❖ **Five Dollar Movie Tickets on Tuesdays - On Tuesdays, the AMC Theatre in Columbia has \$5.00 movie tickets all day. All you need to do is go to the theatre and ask for the FREE STUBS Insider card. There is another card, but it costs money.**
- ❖ Check out the HEART website and Facebook page for pictures of HEART members at meetings and at other HEART activities, like, working at the Food Bank!

HEART NEWS

*A Publication for the members of the
Association of Retired Howard County Public School Personnel*

Volume XLX Number 4

Howard County, MD

April 2019

Presidents' Message

As we enjoy the arrival of warm weather, HEART continues to grow and flourish like the spring flowers. If we keep nurturing and feeding our membership, we know that an increased number of people will become active and join us at our meetings and our community service and social events. Thank you to all the members who continue to make our organization a success, and a special thank you to those who enlist new folks throughout the year.

Since the last newsletter, HEART has been active and often at capacity at our events. From sorting donations and stocking shelves at the *Howard County Food Bank* to packing cases at *Comfort Cases*, our members continue to make a difference for people locally and throughout the country. Next year, we are inviting the Founder of *Comfort Cases* to one of our general meetings to share firsthand the history and amazing stories behind our newest volunteer venture. Are you interested in joining our volunteer efforts? For information on future opportunities, be sure to check out SERVING with HEART in this newsletter.

While making a difference is extremely important, so is our connection with fellow retirees. To that end, we sold out for our March luncheon! Thank you to MRSPA Executive Director Wanda Twigg for her updates on the State pension, and to HEART member Gene Streagle for updates on Maryland legislation and HCPSS health benefits. And as always, we want to thank the St. James ladies and gentlemen for serving us a delicious meal with friendliness and kindness. They make the experience positive and enjoyable for all!

Positive and enjoyable experiences make our HEART events successful, and we had another successful trip to Toby's Dinner Theater for *Gypsy*. We look forward to the next HEART-sponsored trip to Toby's to see *Grease*, with increased attendees and continued fun. And based on feedback collected at our March meeting, we're pleased to announce the addition of two day trips for HEART members. If you are interested in attending any of these events, be sure to register early. Specific information regarding all three events can be found under the GET SOCIAL with HEART section of the newsletter.

As we wind down the year, we are planning even more exciting events for our membership, including a "Not Back to School" Happy Hour. Stay tuned for more information and make sure you are "liking" us on Facebook and checking our website (<https://howardrspa.org>) for the latest updates on all of our activities.

We hope to see you at our next meeting on May 21st. Until then, enjoy the spring weather and be kind to one another.

Warmest regards,
Sue Mascaro & Addie Kaufman

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL

March 12, 2019

St. James United Methodist Church West Friendship, MD

Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

- The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.
- The luncheon was sold out once again.
- Sue introduced the 9 new members who attended today.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Ronnie Bohn, Co-Vice-President

Lunch, Munch & Mingle!

Member News

Ronnie Bohn, Co-Vice President

- Each table discussed key new member events including new grandchildren, a member's new book cover, travel plans, scholarships for family members, two 50th wedding anniversaries, new H.E.A.R.T members, and a family member named guidance counselor of the year award

Special Guest

Dr. Mike Martirano, Superintendent

- HCPSS is the "economic engine" of Howard County.
- Challenges: technology & infrastructure, growth over the years, the health care deficit
- Budget – proposed budget was one billion dollars. It includes benefits for teachers, other employees, and retirees. Teachers look for better salaries and benefits and there is a shortage of teachers.

- 4% of individuals in college claim education as their major. Of the 4%, less than 2% are individuals of color and HCPSS seeks a diverse workforce.
- Last night HCPSS took 20 buses (approximately 1,000 individuals) to the rally for education in Annapolis.
- Maintaining class size is critical.
- Redistricting process will take place. All of our schools are under 110% of utilization.
- Kindness, care, and compassion are very important to lead the human spirit.
- Concerns discussed:
 - **There will be no threat to our health care coverage.** Previous to his tenure, the health care fund was not fully funded. Now it is fully funded. The deficit has decreased from 50 million to 37 million dollars. About 150 million is funded by HCPSS.
 - HCPSS budget update: 85% of the total budget goes to salaries and benefits. 10% is transportation; 5% is the superintendent's discretionary money.

Recognition Program

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

Chuck and Anne Ridgeway were recognized for all of their service to H.E.A.R.T., MRSPA, AARP, and many other endeavors over the years.

Business Meeting

- Updates from the State

*Wanda Ruffo Twigg, Executive Director
Maryland Retired School Personnel Assoc.*

 - Member benefits were discussed
 - A new brochure will be out in about one week with updated member benefits (new member benefits will include *Stress Free Solutions for Seniors* and *Hometown Heroes Realty*)
 - Legislative issues/bills:
 - Our pension benefits are good for this year. The correct amount of money is in the budget, but not additional funding
 - Teacher pension is 75% funded; goal is 80% funded by 2023
 - MRSPA bill – When blind recruitment mailings are mailed out – they are sent out twice per year by a mailing company (April and October only). The purpose is to align with correct fiscal year.
 - Bill to add active teachers and a parent to the State Board of Education – in process; governor may veto.
 - Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights bill – would include a list of rights posted in a hospital room.
 - Long-Term Care Insurance: A bill related to an annual income tax credit for up to \$250 and up to \$500 in time.
- Co-Presidents' Report

Addie Kaufman & Sue Mascaro

 - Protecting our Assets
 - Some of the dues we pay at the State level pay for a legislative aide.
 - Connecting and Serving
 - Frederick County has members go back to the schools from which they retired to provide baked goods and connect
 - 27 members saw Gypsy at Toby's
 - We have 50 seats for Grease on June 6. The deadline to purchase tickets is the end of April.
 - Arlene Mindus is offering a Zentangle class on March 28 from 10-12. The cost is \$15.00 (includes supplies)
 - Upcoming bus trips are listed on the feedback form for members' to indicate their interest.
 - Food for the Howard County Food Bank was collected today for the March 26 trip to the Food Bank. April 5 is the next Food Bank volunteer trip.
 - 14 bags of donations were collected for "Comfort Cases." Volunteers are needed for April 1. "Comfort Cases" is a national cause. The center is located in Rockville.
 - Fran Razmus and Donna Streagle collected for today's 50/50 raffle for the Scholarship Fund. H.E.A.R.T. will provide five to six scholarships of \$1,500.
- Approval of the Minutes

Janet Zimmerman, Secretary

 - Chuck Ridgeway made a motion; Ellen Hill seconded

- Treasurer's Report *Ellen Hill, Treasurer*
 - Checking account = \$13,544.28
 - Other checking account = \$24,891.14
 - Scholarship Fund = \$3,246.78 (not including today's 50/50 raffle)

- Committee Highlights
 - Health Benefits *Jim Evans, Chairperson*
 - Gene Streagle discussed the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is dead
 - We are at the end of a 3-year deal on our health benefits. Right now we have 2 vendors – CareFirst and Aetna. We have Express Scripts for prescriptions. We also have vision and dental. Kelly Associates is looking into talking with these companies about putting everything into one plan (health, Rx, vision, dental).
 - The Request for Proposal (RFP) will not change our ability to continue with our current health providers.
 - HCPSS is sitting in a nice place for benefits based on what is going on around the state. Joe Dimagio is our rep from Kelly Associates who helps negotiate on our behalf.
 - Legislative Committee *Gene Streagle, Chairperson*
 - Death with Dignity passed the house; Senate pending
 - The Pension has \$52 billion dollars in it. Our legislators need to know that most of our pension goes back into the economy
 - Disclosure of Price Sharing for Prescription Drugs – bill to bring it back to disclose what the patient pays and the actual cost
 - Pharmaceutical Drugs Transparency
 - Gene is pleased with the legislation and health benefits.

- Kim Sullivan announced the passing of three H.E.A.R.T members: Linda Chrest, Rovern Goins, Kristine Jacobs

- Important Announcements *Sue Mascaro, Co-President*
 - April 9 is deadline for articles for next newsletter
 - Newsletter assembly is April 22 at Gail Phillips' house
 - If you are born before 1934, you are an Emeritus members (dues are free)
 - If anyone would like to be a delegate to MSRPA, contact Sue or Addie. Delegates vote. It will be at the Bowie Comfort Inn on May 8 and includes lunch.
 - Jessica Garsky, an attorney from Carney, Kelahan, Bresler, Bennett, and Scherr will provide a presentation on May 21 at the next H.E.A.R.T. luncheon. Members were asked to provide suggestions for topics.

Door & Raffle Prizes / Adjournment

Addie Kaufman, Co-President

- Bonnie Inkman won \$150.00 in the 50/50 raffle.

PROGRAM NEWS: General Membership Meeting on May 21, 2019

A note from your Co-Vice Presidents:

Our next HEART meeting will be on May 21st at 12 PM at the St. James Methodist Church. Please make sure you reserve your spot early as our last two gatherings filled to capacity very quickly. Remember to fill out the reservation form in this newsletter.

We have invited guest speaker Jessica Gorsky, an attorney with the Columbia firm Carney, Kelehan, Bresler, Bennett, and Scher, to address various legal matters of interest to retirees, including topics suggested by our members during the last HEART luncheon.

We will also be collecting donations for one of our signature charities- Comfort Cases. This wonderful organization ensures children entering foster care will have a backpack filled with necessities, thereby bringing dignity to their first foster care experience. We will be collecting the following items during our May meeting (new items only please). Comfort Cases also accepts monetary donations.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Backpacks, small duffel bags | Toothbrushes | Baby travel-sized toiletries |
| Blankets (up to 50" X 60") | Travel-size toiletries (including those from hotel visits) | |
| Pens and Pencils | Journals | Coloring books |
| Pajamas (newborn to adult 3X) | Stuffed animals | |

VOLUNTEERING with HEART . . . Please Join Us!

HEART members have been busy volunteering this spring. On Tuesday, March 26, a team of eight volunteers spent two hours sorting nonperishable food items at The Marketplace, Howard County's Food Bank. It was a busy time at the facility, as donations were plentiful thanks to the county's Scouting for Food event the weekend prior to our visit. Our team, comprised of both experienced and new volunteers, managed to empty three HUGE containers full of donations.

On Monday, April 1st, another team of HEART volunteers traveled to the Rockville office of *Comfort Cases* to fill backpacks and duffel bags for children transitioning into foster care. Seven of our colleagues prepared, sorted, and packaged items for the children. Volunteer Coordinator Markia Chambers was thrilled by the work of our HEART team, and looks forward to a future visit by HEART.

Are you wondering how you can participate? We will continue our support of *Comfort Cases* and Maryland's foster children at our next **general meeting on May 21st**. HEART members are asked to bring **donations** to help refill shelves at the facility; suggested items include pajamas (infant to young adult), personal care items, journals, and new or gently used books.

And are you ready to take a more active role? On **Wednesday, June 5th** we will return to *The Marketplace* from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. to assist clients as they shop for groceries and other items. And from **9 to 11 am on Tuesday, July 23rd** we'll be trying a new endeavor supporting the Food Bank's *Community Garden*. HEART will join other volunteers to weed and harvest the very vegetables clients enjoy when they utilize the bank. Contact Sue at scmascaro@gmail.com or 443-878-6883 if you'd like to join us for either volunteer opportunity . . . we love welcoming new volunteers to the team!

SOCIAL with HEART: TOBY'S Dinner Theatre

Back by popular demand . . . another evening of food and fun at Toby's Dinner Theatre on **Thursday, June 6th**, when we enjoy one of the world's favorite musicals, *Grease*. Join the students from Rydell High as they take us back to the 1950's when drive-in movies, sock-hops and tough talkin' ladies defined a generation. Enjoy this high-octane production featuring all the hit songs you love, including "Summer Nights," "You're the One That I Want," and "Greased Lightning."

Tickets for HEART members and their families are only \$40, including tip. Although we've reserved additional tickets for this popular show, they are going fast! Please contact Sue via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) by **Monday, May 6th** to secure your seats.

TRAVEL with HEART: Upcoming Day Trips

In 2017, thirty-five HEART members enjoyed a bus trip to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. A similar trip in 2018 did not draw sufficient interest, so we've decided to expand our horizons. Based on member feedback from our March meeting, we now have two new day trips planned . . .

On **Friday, June 28th**, join your HEART colleagues for a trip to **historic Annapolis**. Enjoy a tour of the Maryland State House, and ride through the streets of the historic district and surrounding area. Visit the World War II Memorial with an experienced Colonial guide on this two-hour tour. But that's not all! Hop on board a river boat for a spectacular 6-mile cruise on the scenic Severn River; view the historic Annapolis Harbor, including the banks of the U.S. Naval Academy. Next, explore the gorgeous banks, wetlands and impressive waterfront homes of the region. The cost, which includes bus transportation, a guided tour, the scenic river cruise, and lunch, is \$118 per person. If you are interested in attending, contact Sue via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883). The deadline for the trip is May 27th, so be sure not to delay!

Our second trip, scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**, is to the Annual **Maryland Wine Festival** in Carroll County. Since its inception in 1984, the number of wineries in the state continues to grow. Wine festival guests can sample a wide variety of wines while listening to local musicians. Members can take part in seminars on winemaking, an amateur wine judging contest, and winemaking demonstrations. Attendees can also browse handmade items from local artisans and enjoy treats from food vendors. The cost of the trip, \$69 per person, includes transportation to and from the venue, a commemorative wine glass, and wine tastings. Contact Sue via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) if you'd like to join us; the registration deadline is August 3rd.

We certainly hope you can travel with us to one or both of these fun destinations. Both ventures have received positive feedback from our neighboring associations across the state. And, as always, family and friends are more than welcome to join us!



According to our records, 8 HEART members have achieved HEART “Emeritus” status for 2019. \$25 will be donated to the HEART Scholarship Fund in honor of each of them. Please congratulate the following HEART members for reaching this milestone!
Joan Carter Benjamin Dawson Joyce Dougherty Dorothy Gale
Ruby Racine Peggy Riley Jean Somerville Marjorie Tolins

If you turn 85 this year, please contact Donna Brackins or Gail Phillips ASAP so you will not be billed for HEART dues this year, or any future years! If you are over 85 and still being billed, please contact us and give us your birthdate so we can add you to the “Emeritus” list and stop billing your for your HEART membership dues. Your birthdate will not be published in the directory. If you turn 90 before July 1 of this year, or have already done so, be sure MRSPA is informed so you will not be billed for MRSPA dues! Our (HEART’s) year runs Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. MRSPA’s year runs from July 1 – June 30.

We welcome 3 new members (since the last newsletter). Welcome: Kathy Ariano Sue Brown Laura Derreth

If you know anyone who is retiring, or has retired but not yet joined either HEART or MRSPA, please share this edition of the newsletter with them, or at least, give them a copy of this HEART membership application. [To join MRSPA, they need to contact MRSPA directly.](#) That can be done by going to their website: www.mrspa.org and clicking on “Member Services” or by calling 1-877-625-6782. (Their address is 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD, 21113 – 1508.)

There has been some confusion about the paying of HEART and/or MRSPA dues. If you are a HEART only member, you will be billed, usually in May, for the \$10 annual dues. **If you are a member of both, when you pay your dues to MRSPA, your HEART dues are included.** MRSPA will forward your HEART dues to our Treasurer. Those dues are either billed to you by MRSPA, or taken from your July paycheck. **You do NOT have to pay an additional \$10 to HEART.** While the dues year runs July 1 – June 30, HEART counts the “emeritus” status (age 85) from January 1 – Dec. 31. MRSPA (age 90) counts from July 1 – June 30, the same as the dues year.

Application for HEART (only) Membership

Name ((PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this form with a check for \$10.00 to:

HEART c/o Mrs. Donna Brackins
 904 Roller Coaster Court
 Mt. Airy, MD 21771

In Memoriam
Rovern Ely Goins

Rovern Goins was born on July 18, 1924, in Pennington Gap, VA. She passed away on February 24, 2019, at the age of 94. After graduating from Hiwassee College in Madisonville, TN, she later earned a BS in elementary education from Towson State College in 1975. Prior to coming to Howard County, Rovern spent 9 years teaching in several elementary schools in VA. During her 23 years in service to HCPSS, she taught at St. John’s Lane, Rockland, and Lisbon Elementary Schools; she retired in 1984. Rovern is survived by her daughter and son-in-law (Judy Goins & Mark Cox); 3 grandchildren; 3 great-grandsons; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her husband (Denver), as well as her son and daughter-in-law (Dixie & Carole), and her sister & brother. Rovern was a charter member of Bethel Baptist Church in Ellicott City where she taught Sunday School for many years.

(If you would like to honor any of the above, or anyone else, for any reason, please feel free to use the following form to make a donation to the HEART Scholarship Fund in their memory or honor.)

HEART Scholarship Donation Form

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ Date _____

Name _____ (Phone _____)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please designate: Honor of Memory of:

Name of honoree or deceased _____

Special Occasion for honoree _____

Send acknowledgement to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation for Retirement years/ Other: _____

Mail this completed with your check to Scholarship Committee Chair:

Fran Razmus 9221 Maple Rock Drive Ellicott City, MD 21042

Proposed 2019 – 2020 HEART Budget Kathleen Swinson, Budget Committee Chairperson

Revenue		Expenditures	
Dues	\$8,400	Supplies	\$460
HEART luncheons	\$12,000	Postage	\$200
Interest	\$15	Mileage	\$75
Social Activity Events	\$12,120	Telephones	\$150
MRSPA Dues paid to HEART	\$110	Memberships	\$50
Membership Directories	\$50	Audit Committee	\$200
Amount Used from Excess Funds	\$6,795	Passthrough Payment made to MRSPA	\$110
Total Revenue	\$39,490	MRSPA Donation	\$75
		Publication/Directory Committee	\$4,200
		Publicity/Website	\$25
		Remembrance	\$75
		Memberships	\$1,600
		Scholarship Committee	
		Scholarship Donation	\$5,000
		Deceased member donation	\$250
		Social Committee Events	\$12,120
		Luncheon	\$14,900
		Total Expenditures	\$39,490
Scholarship Fund			
Revenue			
Donations	\$1,900		
Necrology	\$250		
Fundraisers	\$350		
From General Account	\$5,000		
Total Revenue	\$7,500		
Expenditures			
Scholarships	\$7,500		
Total Expenditures	\$7,500		

This proposed budget is to be voted on for approval at the May 21, 2019 Annual meeting.

HEART Luncheon/Meeting Reservation Form

DATE: ***Tuesday, May 21, 2019***

PLACE: St. James UMC, Rt. 99 (just east of Rt. 32, Ellicott City)

TIME: 12 Noon **COST:** \$18 per person (non-refundable)

MENU: Tomato juice Chicken Parsley Potatoes
Broccoli Lettuce Salad Stewed apples with raisins
Rolls and butter Iced tea and coffee *Dessert

*****Please note on the reservation if you need a sugar free dessert.*****



**Please complete the following form and send it by *May 7, 2019*
with a check payable to *H.E.A.R.T.* to:
JoAnne Horan
17494 Timberleigh Way
Woodbine, MD 21797**

_____ Reservations for Luncheon at \$18.00 per person \$ _____ Total Enclosed

___ ***** I need a sugar-free dessert**

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

email: _____

Reservations are needed by **May 7, 2019**. Thank you for early reservations! Late reservations cannot be accepted, as a count must be given on this date. **Please call JoAnne at 301-854-6268 if you think your reservation will not get to her in time! (Your contact information is requested in case of an emergency that would necessitate the change of the luncheon date and/or venue. Thank you for providing it.)**