

Sue Mascaro, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm. The meeting, HEART's annual holiday luncheon, was held at Turf Valley Resort. 177 members attended. The Chamber Choir from Wilde Lake High School (WLHS), led by **Kevin Crouch**, performed a lovely selection of holiday songs. The Wilde Lake High School String Quartet performed in the lobby prior to the luncheon. **Enkelejda Spiro** is the strings teacher at WLHS.

General Business and Committee Updates

Approval of October 8, 2024 General Meeting Minutes

Janet Zimmerman, Secretary, stated that the minutes of the meeting were published in the November 2024 newsletter. There were no questions or corrections. **Susan Sellner** made a motion to approve the minutes; **Nancy Malwitz** seconded the motion. Members voted and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Ellen Hill** reported the current balances: Checking = \$29,532.22; other interest-bearing checking (savings) = \$7,183.10; Scholarship = \$595.78.

Sue explained that Howard is one of the few systems that continue to grow with MRSPA. HEART is moving forward with Articles of Incorporation, hopefully by March. Currently only six MD systems are incorporated; however, all systems moving toward incorporation. HEART is also pursuing tax exempt status.

Socializing with HEART

60 members are registered to attend *The Sound of Music* next week at Toby's. *9 to 5 The Musical* is coming to Toby's March 6, 2025. The April 3 performance of *The Music Man* has 60 tickets available. The summer show will be *Saturday Night Fever*. A considerable discount over the box office price is available through HEART.

The BSO at The Strathmore performances include a movie show of *Princess Bride* on January 3, *Dancing in the Streets* (Motown music) on January 24, and *The Music of Tina Turner* on February 21. Discount tickets are \$45. Contact **Sue Mascaro** via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) for tickets to either venue.

Necrology

The *Moments of Remembrance* celebration will take place at the March meeting.

Drawings

A drawing was held for members born in November, December, and January and gifts provided. **Ellen Hill and Lisa Davis** announced the winner of the 50/50 drawing. Proceeds support the scholarship fund. **Glen Heisey** won \$212.00. Glen graciously donated his winnings back to the scholarship fund. Thank you, Glen!

Door prizes: **Susan Sellner** made a collection of beautiful flower and plant arrangements for today's door prizes. Sharon Kramer announced the winners.

Serving the Community

HEART continues to sponsor *Comfort Cases* and the *Howard County Food Bank* with donations. Members donated generously to both organizations today. *Comfort Cases* provides a backpack with books, journals, pajamas, a stuffed animal friend, and other essentials for youth required to move to a foster home. In the past youth were given a trash bag for their belongings when moving. *Comfort Cases* was founded to provide a more humane touch for the children.

A big thank you to **Gail Zitney and her committee members** for organizing today's luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Zimmerman, Secretary

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Like us on Facebook: Search for HEART, *The Association of Retired Howard County Personnel*.

Upcoming General Membership Meeting/Luncheon: March 11, 2025 at 12:00 pm at The Meeting House in Columbia