



# CRSPA



Service. Collaboration. Growth.

## President's Message

Happy 2023 to Everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and making plans for fun adventures in this New Year. Our weather temps have been up and down with some very cold days followed by warm days. Hoping we'll get to enjoy an early Spring.

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Holiday Celebration at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. We had a wonderful time listening to the Huntingtown High's Choir under the direction of Lori Sandra Daelemans. Their lovely voices filled us with joy and happiness as we prepared for upcoming the holiday season.

At this December meeting we had three guests. Dr. Andrae Townsel, CCPS new Superintendent, joined us and shared with us his thoughts for our school system. We also met and honored Calvert County's 2022 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Rachael Ulmer and 2022 Educational Support Person of the Year, Ms. Dana Smith. Both ladies shared with us their experiences and the importance they feel in being able to help their students have a positive and successful experience during their school life. This meeting is a favorite one and filled with smiles and laughter. We collected school supplies and donations that were taken to Student Services. Thank you to all that contributed.

Looking forward to our March meeting where we will meet local author Mary B. Rockefeller. She wrote, Early Schools of Calvert County Maryland, published in 2019. She has researched the histories of African-American and White Schools from the One Room Era through approximately a century following the Civil War. When I met with her, she is very excited to come and met and share with us her research. Please feel free to bring friends or family that would enjoy this event. See page 3 for RSVP information; Deadline March 5th.



Looking forward to getting together in March,  
Barbara M. McKimmie



## CRSPA Executive Board

### 2022-2023

#### President

Barbara McKimmie  
mckimmiebj@yahoo.com

#### Vice President

Robert Riccardo  
briccardo@aol.com

#### Immediate Past President

Dr. Vicky Karol

#### Recording Secretary

Lori Idol  
Loribidol@gmail.com

#### Corresponding Secretary

Fran Armstrong  
farmstrong@comcast.net

#### Treasurer

Merry Ellen McGown  
mellen20639@yahoo.com

#### Website

Lynn Cox  
lynncox117@gmail.com

#### Newsletter

Debbie Hance  
debbiejhance@gmail.com

## Save These Dates 2022-2023 CRSPA Meeting Dates

### Executive Meetings/Zoom

- March 1, 2023
- April 12, 2023

### General Meetings

- March 8, 2023
- April 19, 2023

# In Memoriam

## ***Lula Mae McDonald***

***December 25, 1946—November 21, 2022***



Ms. Lula Mae McDonald, age 75 of Fayetteville, departed this life on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Graveside Service was held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM at Campground Cemetery 4625 Camp Ground Road Fayetteville, North Carolina, 28314.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory: brother, Dr. Edward McDonald; nieces, Lisa Sealy and Pamela McDonald; nephew, Sean McDonald; grand-niece, Jasmine Barnes; grand-nephews, Daniel McDonald and Malik Sealy; and a host of other relatives and friends.

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Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

— *Japanese Proverb*

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## ***Arthur Walter Wittig***

***October 13, 1942—December 9, 2022***



Lieutenant Commander Arthur Wittig, US Navy (Ret.), died December 9, 2022, in Calvert County, Maryland, of pulmonary and cardiac distress. Art was eighty years old.

"The Commander," as Art is affectionately known, is survived by his wife, Joyce Hughes Wittig and many family members.

Born in Philadelphia in 1942, Art moved as a child to Texas, where his family maintained a dairy farm in Fredericksburg.

After graduating from William B. Travis High School in 1961, Art received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy as a Naval reservist. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1965.

Art enjoyed a twenty-year career as a Navy pilot. He served two tours in Vietnam, placing him among the group of veterans whose lives were forever altered by the conflict there.

Art retired from the Navy in 1985 and took a position as a Naval science instructor in the Calvert County Public Schools system, where he taught for fifteen years. At Calvert High School, Art directed the first unit of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. In 2001 to 2011, He taught mathematics and social studies at Mill Creek Middle School.

Art was an active member of the community at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and was a volunteer for the Calvert County Fair Board.

Donations may be made to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church or the National Niemann-Pick Foundation at [chasethecure.net](http://chasethecure.net) to benefit children.

# CRSPA's Next Meeting

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## Safety Tips

Do not save credit card numbers online with merchants or service providers.

Set up your digital accounts to require multifactor authentication.



**Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**Place:** Christ Church Parish—Port Republic, MD

**Time:** 12pm Lunch; 1pm Meeting

**Program:** "Early Schools of Calvert County, Maryland"

**Guest Speaker:** Mary B. Rockefeller, Author

**Menu:** Corned Beef, Cabbage, Roasted Potatoes, Glazed Carrots,  
Baked Fish, Corn Bread/Butter, Dessert, Beverages

**Cost:** \$20

**Reservations Required:** Call Loujeania Johnson at 410-586-1066 or email her at lsjohnson58@verizon.net by March 5th.

## Welcoming New Members

Martha Maratta

Sherry Owens

## Door Prize Winners!

Carolyn Sacker

Misty Ellison

Jennifer Hudson

Carole Wagner

Debbie Hance

Cathy Page

Loujeania Johnson

Carol Kahlili

Donna Nichols

Phil Bickle

Barbara Fringer

## Community Outreach Raffle Winners!

Becky Lebow

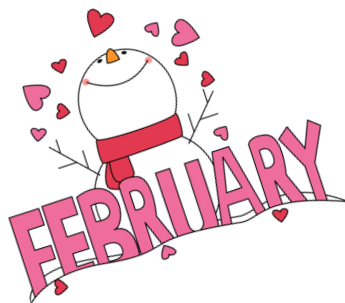
Cathy Lucas

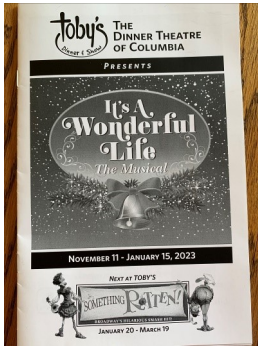
Carolyn Sacker

## Treasurer's Report

January 2023

Balance: \$9,043.75





## Museum of the Bible

[www.museumofthebible.org](http://www.museumofthebible.org)

400 4th St. SW

Washington, D.C.

**When:** Monday, February 27, 2023

**Price:** May Vary - Groups 10+/\$13.99

Private Tour Groups 10+/\$17.99

Senior Adults at door/\$19.99

Decision will be may when we know our total attending.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up by February 10th.

## CRSPA Community Outreach Projects

### Winter Project

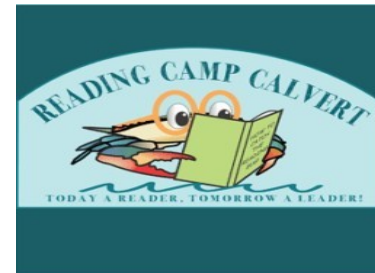
Donations to CCPS Student Services



Barbara, Mellen, and Debbie delivered \$1,379.00 and a large box of supplies to James Kurtz, Director, Student Services and Patricia Hooper, Foster Care Specialist.

### Spring Project

Monetary Donation to Reading Camp Calvert

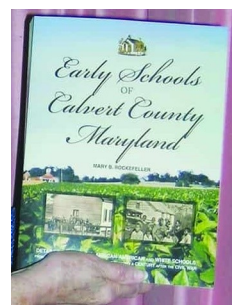


This camp is designed to help underachieving students improve their reading skills, while experiencing just how fun reading can be. Additional information about the camp is on our [website](#). Look for more information on how to donate to this project soon.



## Mary Rockefeller, Author & Guest Speaker

Read more about Ms. Rockefeller's journey as she researched and wrote about our Calvert County early schools in the Bay Weekly by clicking [HERE](#). Ms. Rockefeller will have copies of her book available for sale (\$40) at our March meeting or they can be purchased at the Calvert County Historical Society.





# Happy Birthday CRSPA Members

## March

Vivian Jones 5  
Elizabeth Towle 5  
Jane Fletcher 6  
Marianne Frankhauser 7  
Mandy Blackmon 14  
Clarice Johnson 14  
Julie Roehm 14  
Pamelia Moore 14  
Andrea Daniels 16  
Kathy Simone 16  
Lori Idol 17  
Donna Nichols 17  
Ken Horsmon 21  
Arlene Thornton 23  
Barbara McKimmie 24  
Chris Banks 26  
Catherine Howanstine 26  
Martha Maratta 26  
Lula Parran 31

## April

Gail Oaks 3  
Mary Friedman 7  
Jennifer Hudson 9  
Pamela Wilson 9  
Mary Ellen McGowan 11  
Mary Bannerman 13  
Nicola Williams 14  
Pat Majors 15  
Wendell Brady 23  
Lisa Tettimer 25  
Edith Nutter 28  
Jeniene Wishart 30

## May

Ray Enrico 1  
Linda Mooney 2  
Peggy Demedis 4  
Marsha Gray 6  
Connie McSpadden 7  
Kandia Spain 15  
Cheryl Ragusa 16  
Sherry Burcham 18  
Barbara Brown 21  
John Keosseian 23  
Leonard Elter 25  
Mary Thulin 28  
Dorothy Campbell 31



*Have you been left off the birthday list? Let us know so we can celebrate you each year!*

## School board salutes Wallville school docents

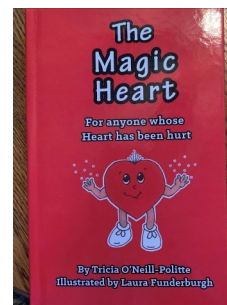
“Local volunteers brimming with knowledge of the by-gone days of Calvert County education—details handed down by prior generations— shared that information this past fall with county middle schoolers,” stated the Southern Maryland News. “Every eighth grader in our school system visits the school between mid-September and mid-November,” said Scott McComb, the school system’s supervisor of social studies. “The program tells a story of segregated education. We had several trips running per week, every week. This small group of docents are the ones who made those small trips go.”



The docents recognized at the school board meeting were Pam Mackall, Michael Kent, Laura Ford, Joyce Freeland, Francine Clark, and Ronald Clark.



## Good times at our December Meeting.....



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, March 8th.  
 Call Loujeania at 410-586-1066 or email her at  
[lsjohnson58@verizon.net](mailto:lsjohnson58@verizon.net) by March 5th to reserve your  
 meal.





And more.....



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[lsjohnson58@verizon.net](mailto:lsjohnson58@verizon.net) by March 5th.



# 2023 Maryland Legislation

Carol Howard, CRSPA Legislation Chair



With the flip of a calendar page to January 2023, lots of things began happening in Annapolis. We have a new governor, Lt. governor, attorney general, and comptroller. 50 new legislators in the General Assembly joined the new leadership and along with these changes came new committee memberships and committee chairmen and a hope that *some MRSPA priorities will see different outcomes this year.*

MRSPA's Priorities for 2023 now have rationale listed to guide the largest committee in MRSPA to complete their charge to inform and monitor legislation which impacts retired educators as well as schools and older persons in general. The committee has recently added curriculum as a part of their education priorities because they feel very strongly that legislation should not dictate that which the state Board of Education or local boards should be responsible for. Some topics expected to come up this legislative session in Maryland's General Assembly include: cannabis, crime, education (including the Blueprint), guns, abortion, vacancies in state offices and agencies, and the budget surplus which is probably due to COVID funding from the federal government.

The MRSPA website has a menu across the top which includes legislation. That drop down button contains tools for direct links to the Maryland General Assembly meetings and committee membership along with contact information for sponsors in the midst of other information. Each year, the Legislative Aide for MRSPA monitors all filed bills and brings possible bills of interest to the committee which meets bi-weekly during the Legislative Session. The committee monitors not only our pension, which is a big part of their charge, but also other relevant issues that impact us. Bills are given a choice of **Support**, **Oppose**, **No Position**, or **Monitor**. If a bill is recommended with a **support** or **oppose** vote, a letter is written on MRSPA stationery and then is presented to legislators, placed in a binder to be referenced in preparation and before the hearing. If needed, the committee will also provide testimony. After each bi-weekly meeting, a legislative update is posted on the website so that anyone can monitor bills that are being brought up.

Another objective of the Legislative Committee is to have an annual workshop for all the counties in Maryland. This year's MRSPA Legislative Workshop was held on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> with an agenda that included representatives from AARP MD and NRTA (AARP's Educator Community). MRSPA works collaboratively with them due to common legislative priorities they all share that enrich the quality of life of older citizens including such issues as affordability of prescription drugs, out of pocket medical costs, broadband issues/telehealth technology, nursing homes and long term care, and cognitive and behavioral health (the new "buzz term" for mental health). Other agenda items on this year's agenda included an update from the State Retirement and Pension System by the Executive Director. He reported that the fund is doing well despite recent losses in the market due to the "good year experiences from a couple of years ago" and the "asset smooth" strategy implemented to try to avoid increased employer contributions. He also reported that they hope to be working on providing better member services to assist those either retiring or retired. There is no bill currently but he spoke about a possible retirement benefits study and also changing the vesting period which currently is 10 years. The woman who was bringing a Maryland Budget Overview lost connection toward the beginning of her presentation and hopefully we will receive information from her at a later date. Aruna Miller, Maryland's new Lt. Governor, brought greetings from the new administration to start the workshop and shared about her first public school experience when she was a 7 year old coming from India.

There are a few bills that the MRSPA Legislative Committee has already taken positions on including 3 bills dealing with curriculum, 2 concerning election and election law, 988, mental health, and income tax credits/modifications. These bills are in various stages including **Hearing**, **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**, and **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**. You can access the MRSPA website for the current status/updates on these and all bills as well as read the actual wording of bills being presented and their sponsor's contact information should you want to monitor issues or have input as an individual. If you have specific questions you may email me at [cah4literacy@yahoo.com](mailto:cah4literacy@yahoo.com) and I will attempt to address your concerns and/or comments.



## MRSPA 2022-2023 Mini-Grant Winners in Calvert County

The MRSPA Community Service Committee selected 12 schools to receive \$300 Mini-Grants to enhance and supplement their curriculum initiatives. Overall, MRSPA received 98 mini grant applications. Most (not all) of Maryland's 24 school systems had applicants. Calvert County was fortunate to receive 2 of the 12 grants. The money for these grants comes from the *MRSPA Foundation Fund*.

Congratulations to PAC-Appeal Elementary School and Dowell Elementary School. Mrs. Mary Brooke Fitzpatrick, Librarian at PAC-Appeal, received the funds to support "Equity in Books for Pre-K and Kindergarten."



Mary Brooke Fitzpatrick, Media Specialist;  
and Michelle Beckwith, Principal



Jason Patton, Principal; Caryn Fossile, Teacher;  
and Barbara McKimmie, CRSPA President

## MRSPA Foundation Fund Raffle

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation Fund* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter using the form below and through local association newsletters using the same form. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2023 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$150 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$75: Cooking, Spa, Wine Lover, Movie Night, and Sports Lover. Out of state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

**Entering the drawing is fun and easy!**

1. Make your **check payable to**  
**AEF FBO MRSPA Foundation Fund R22420**
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation Fund R22420** on the FOR line
3. Date and **sign** your check
4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 22, 2023**

**Will you send a donation today?**

**Receipts will be sent via US Mail.**



### MRSPA Foundation Fund

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

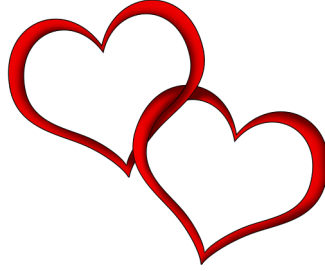
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

VISIT



[www.crspa.org](http://www.crspa.org)  
*For the latest newsletter, meetings, legislative updates, photos, and more.*



**CRSPA**

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Dunkirk, MD 20754