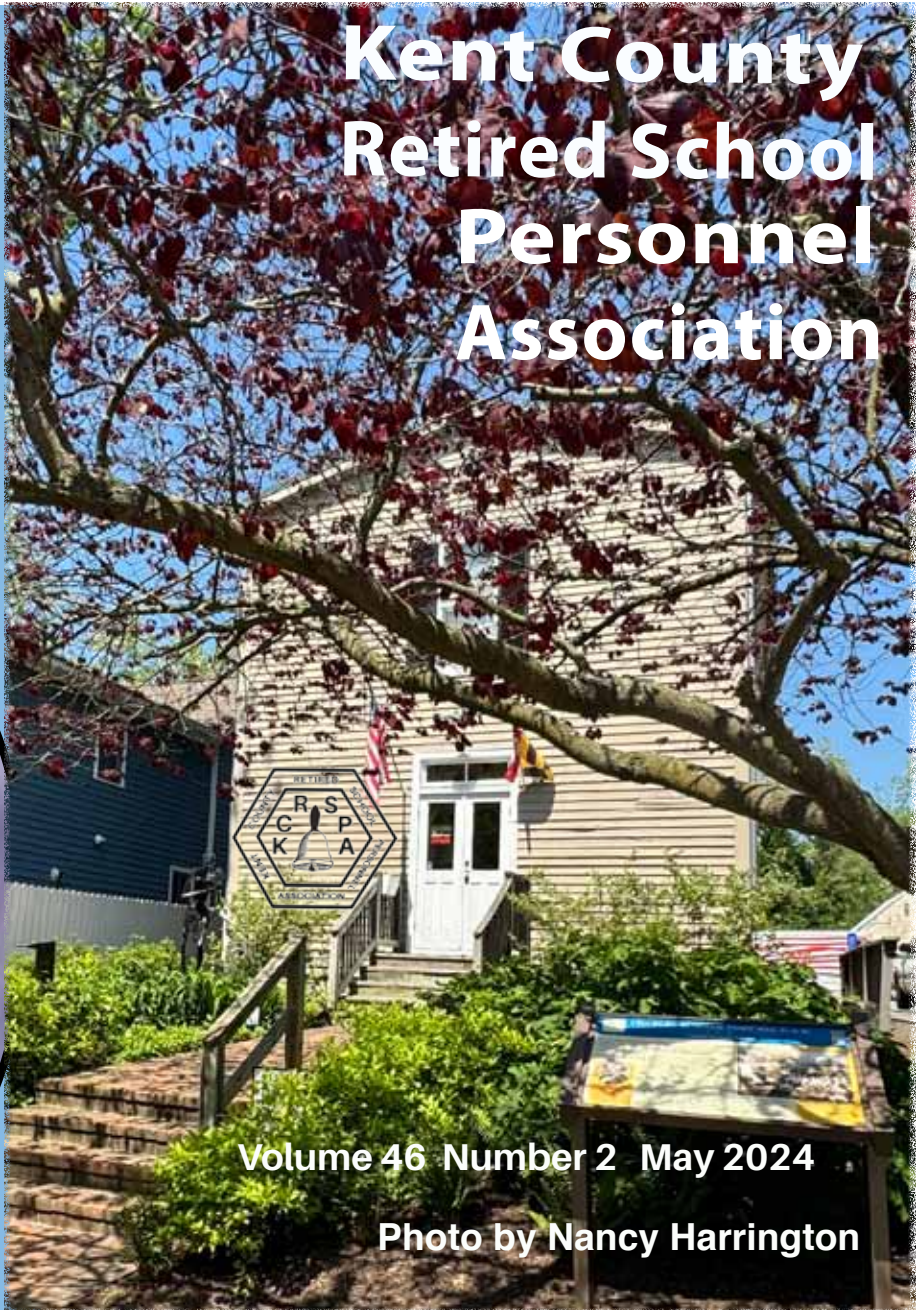


# The Bell Ringer



# Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 46 Number 2 May 2024

Photo by Nancy Harrington

**H**appy Spring to everyone! I imagine many of you are preparing your gardens for planting. I can't wait to pick a red, juicy, tomato from my own garden.

This year the Executive Committee held their meetings at Sumner Hall on Queen Street in Chestertown. It is an African American G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), building, one of only two G.A.R. buildings in the U.S. If you are not familiar with this historic building, take some time this summer and visit this informative museum.

I want to share with you all the wonderful Community Service projects our association has been involved in this year.

- We: \*made a monetary donation to two Food Pantries and the Lion's Club Christmas Basket  
 \* donated clothes to the Nurse's Room at Galena Elementary School  
 \* donated hygiene items to Garnet Elementary School for their school community  
 \* continued to supply books for our three Little Libraries

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**CLAPPER**  
WHAT'S IN THE BELL

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- \* donated the book *Emerald the Green Dolphin* (written by Glenn Michael's nephew), to the each elementary school
  - \* served as docents to several museums in Kent County
  - \* donated pet supplies to the county's new Animal Shelter
  - \* created lovely "Raffle Baskets" for our Scholarship luncheon
- All of these projects were accomplished because of your support. Thank you members!

This year KCRSPA will award each of 5 Kent County seniors a \$1000 scholarship to the college of their choice. Thank you Scholarship Committee for making these 5 well deserving Seniors happy.

KCRSPA would like to welcome 3 new members, Diana Georgeson, Tracey Rodney, and Yvonne Paxton. So glad you joined this active group of retirees. We would like to invite you to a complimentary lunch this fall.

At this time, KCRSPA has 101 unified members, 4 local members, and 4 Emeritus members. One of our members, Mary Fisher was awarded the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association. Congratulations!

Mary Ellen Van Culin passed away this past spring. She was a member of our association for many years until her health declined. We wanted to honor her for the many years she worked with the students at M.E.S. after she retired. She received the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame for that service. We will miss you, Ellen.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it is likely that Betty Weller will already be installed as President of MRSPA. There were several members who proudly watched her being installed. Thank you" to Kathleen Jones, Rick Walters, Nina Newlin, Terri Mullikin, Sue Crooks, Jean Foreman, and Nancy Harrington.

Last year, our June meeting was held on the "Packet"...a cruise down the Chester River and a delicious lunch. It was such a big hit, we are doing it again this year. Thank you Kathy and Nancy for organizing this event...a great way to end our busy year.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for your support, kindness, and time you give our association. We are an amazing group of retirees!

***Nancy Harrington, President***



Editor Notes -

It's time for another exciting Luncheon Meeting of the KCRSPA. This cruise is a second cruise. Time for a trip on the Packet. It's a fun excursion. Effort has been made to get this newsletter out so that both digital and hard copy receiving members can have adequate notice to get your reservation to Kathy on time. Given the procedures, there can not be any late reservations accepted. Hey, we're retired school personnel. We know about deadlines.

This issue of the *Bell Ringer* has the usual material. There are reports from all the various committees and they have all been busy. Check out the reports. The Treasurer's Report is included. Debbie does a wonderful job getting that material to the editor so the report is current.

There are two sets of minutes. The General Meeting minutes of March are the minutes which the body will approve at the June meeting. The Executive Committee May minutes will be approved by the Executive Committee at their September meeting. They are provided here for information.

We lost a member, Ellen Van Culin, and there is a memorial to her.

On a different note, we have a member who has just been awarded a commendation and that person is Mary Fisher, who was inducted into the MSADA Hall of Fame. There is an article on that. Congratulations Mary!

You will find pictures from prior events, including the March meeting at The Rock and the Packet cruise of 2023.

Donors to the Scholarship to date for 2024 are listed as well as the form to donate. It is suggested that all members make an annual contribution of \$25, but other amounts are welcome. It is my opinion that the giving of scholarships is the greatest thing we do. Funding for this program is essential. With college costs what they are, every bit helps.

### **KCRSPA March General Meeting & Luncheon**

We met and dined on a delicious breakfast buffet in Rock Hall at The Rock Restaurant. Our first guest speaker was Freda Sanchez, the HR representative at the Board of Education. She started in this position in October 2023 and has sent out a few communications about our health insurance. Freda is the contact person for our benefits through the board of education and she reminded us we can contact her about any insurance questions/concerns (410-708-3664). She mentioned that CareFirst will have a member appreciation event in Salisbury this month and she will be the liaison for Kent County.

Next, Debbie Smith gave us an overview of our scholarship and checking accounts. We were reminded that Susan Clark will be honored in October 2024 as our person who has volunteered loads of her time to great causes; on May 7th Betty Weller will be installed as MRSPA President at an event in Turf Valley; and last but not least, we will honor members who have passed away at this same annual meeting on May 7th.

In addition, Nina Newlin is putting our website together and will update it regularly; we welcomed our new member, Beth Coxon; we made corrections to our directory so that it's updated; Kathy provided beautiful and creative St. Patrick's Day table settings for each booth; and the next meeting/luncheon will be June 6th on the Chester River Packet (cost will be \$50.00).

Equally important, our dues will go up by \$5.00 on July 1st; we are encouraged to continue to bring necessities for our animal friends in our new animal shelter; Glenn Michael's nephew, Dr. Ronald Gilbar, donated signed copies of his children's book: *Emerald The Green Dolphin*. Each elementary school in our county will receive one!

One last tidbit is, Washington College is offering free tuition to those who go into the teaching profession! Sue Crooks introduced our second speaker, Emily Murphy, the Executive Director of Horizons of Kent and Queen Annes County. Horizons has been here for students since 1995. Also, Emily has lived in Kent County for 18 years and truly loves her career at Horizons.

Horizons' mission is to provide six weeks of instruction for under served students in Kent County and is designed to prevent summer slide. It is a 501-3C program that now serves over 200 students. This summer program provides academic instruction, swimming lessons, enrichment activities and art lessons. The students participate in the KART (riding program), and enjoy many field trips. These programs and learning experiences enable students gain confidence and therefore feel empowered when they return to school for the school year. Horizons is open five days a week from 8:30 to 3:30, Monday through Friday. Horizon teachers are encouraged to build/write their individual curriculum, and volunteers are welcome and needed.

Any questions are to be directed to Sue Crooks who is a teacher in Horizons and her daughter, Kristin, who is the Kent County Site Director.

*Respectfully submitted, Brenda W. Shorter*

### **KCRSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - MAY 2, 2024**

The regular meeting the Kent County Retired School Personnel Association Executive Committee met at Sumner Hall May 2, 2024 and was called to order at 10 am by President Nancy Harrington.

Members present were: Kathy Clark, Charlotte Potts, Betty Weller, Billie Lynne Roberts, Glenn Michael, Lee Hunley, Margie Baker, Nancy McCloy, Nina Newlin, Debbie Smith.

KCRSPA General Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Nancy listed the delegates schedule to attend the MRSPA. There were also some members who wished to attend and that is permitted, though they can't vote. This is the meeting where our member Betty Weller will be installed as President. Glenn moved, Nancy seconded that we fund those persons \$25 toward to cost. Nancy mentioned that the Gilbar books will be distributed to the elementary schools.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved.

Terri Mullikin is looking for Volunteers for museum coverage.

President's Report - Nancy mentioned the teacher of the year program and recipients. Also that Brenda has made progress on getting a storage room at WES for our materials. She mentioned to that MRSPA/KCRSPA dues will increase to \$65 due to a \$5 increase MRSPA dues. It was noted that Mary Fisher received a Hall of Fame recognition

Committees

Bylaws - need some minor updating.

Community Service - Susan Clark has been submitted for recognition in the Volunteer of the Year Competition. Emily Massey, Debbie Smith take care of small libraries.

Charlotte mentioned that Janes & Emmanuel UMC serve free dinner every Wed. and it will pick up again in September after May and June off.

Program/Hospitality - Kathy Clark gave details on the June Cruise. Discussion followed on the menu and after debate it was decided to go with sliders.

Newsletter - reports due to Glenn by May 5. The trip to Lancaster is set and pretty much full.

Scholarship - the committee has met and selected 5 recipients at \$1,000. each. Names will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on May 16th at the high school.

New Business - there is talk of getting Mark Berry to talk to our group.

There was a request for participation in Read Across America.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am. *Respectfully submitted by Glenn Michael, Acting Secretary*

*The General Meeting minutes are from the March 2024 General Meeting and will be voted on at the June General Meeting. The set of KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting minutes are from the meeting held on May 2, 2024. They will be approved at the next Executive Committee Meeting on September 5, 2024. They are provided here so that all members can know the actions approved and discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting. Members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings.*



**KCRSPA Treasurer's Report**  
**March 29, 2024**  
 (for May 2024 meeting)

**Business Checking Account**

<b>Income</b>			
03/14/2024	March Luncheon		\$810.00
			<b>Total Income: \$810.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
03/07/2024	The Rock Restaurant		\$672.00
03/07/2024	MRSPA (Just Host-Renewal Website maintenance)		\$21.99
03/14/2024	Kathy Clark (decorations)		\$66.74
			<b>Total Expenses: \$760.73</b>
Starting balance as of February 29, 2024			\$8955.09
			<b>Total Income: \$810.00</b>
			<b>Total Expenses: \$760.73</b>
<b>Ending balance as of March 29, 2024</b>			<b>\$9004.36</b>

**KCRSPA Scholarship Fund**

<b>Business Savings Account</b>			
Starting balance as of February 29, 2024			\$7040.78
<b>Income</b>			
03/29/2024	Interest Compounded		\$0.45
<b>Expenses</b>			
0			
Starting balance as of February 29, 2024			\$7,040.78
			<b>Total Income: 0.45</b>
			<b>Total Expenses: 0</b>
<b>Ending balance as of March 29, 2024</b>			<b>\$7041.23</b>



**SUMMER BIRTHDAYS**

**JUNE**

- Sandy Tilgman 6/6
- Nancy Harrington 6/7
- Carole Lupis 6/11\*
- Larry Adams 6/18
- George Jastram 6/20
- Nancy Brown Diangela 6/26
- Peggy Brown 6/28
- Mary Sieman 6/29

**JULY**

- Ruth Jackl 7/4
- William Flook 7/6
- Jean Foreman 7/9
- Marlene Vosberg 7/12
- Emily Massey 7/12
- Evelyn Schaubert 7/17
- Marsha Miller 7/19
- Bonnie Rose 7/23
- Sharon Steward 7/24
- Nancy McCloy 7/26

**AUGUST**

- Elizabeth Knapp 8/5\*
- Donna Mills 8/8
- Bess Engle 8/9
- Lee Loller 8/11
- Linda Taylor 8/19
- Joanne Clarke 8/25
- Tom Groce 8/28
- Debbie Smith 8/28
- Margie Baker 8/30
- Margaret Smith 8/31

**SEPTEMBER**

- Marie Fenner 9/1
- Stephanie Lindsey 9/2
- Leah Schlenker 9/6
- Catherine Swinson 9/9
- Dorothy Ringgold 9/16
- Linda Fry 9/19\*
- Lauretta M. Freeman 9/23
- Amy Crowding 9/25
- Cynthia Phillips 9/27



In Memoriam

# Ellen Louise Van Culin

1942 - 2024

Ellen was an instructional assistant at Millington Elementary School from 1975 - 2005. Three months after retirement, she returned as a volunteer, working 15 hours per week for the next nine years. That means working more than 2000 volunteer hours with children and assisting teachers, providing much needed support of reading and math skills. Working closely with at risk learners, she helped to fill in the instructional gap by working one on one and in small groups. Ellen's dedication and caring supported hundreds of children on their educational journey.

In 2010 Ellen was recognized by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association for her commitment to helping young students learn to read. Nominated for this award by the local KCRSPA, she was the state recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award from MRSPA. In the same year Ellen was inducted in the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

### President

Nancy Harrington  
530 High Bridge Road  
Millington, MD 21651  
nmhar@verizon.net

### Vice President

Susan (Sue) Clark  
210 Manor Ave.  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
sclark2@washcoll.edu

### Past President

Glenn W. Michael  
23169 Old Fairlee Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
fastaperture@gmail.com

### Secretary

Brenda Shorter  
10387 Bunting Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
bshorter20@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Debbie Smith  
209 Pear Tree Pt.RD.  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
debbiesmith828@gmail.com

### Archives Chairs Olythea Hunley

PO Box 4  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
olytheab@gmail.com

### By-Laws Chair

**Rick Walters**  
12750 Ireland's Corner Rd.  
Galena, MD 21620

### Legislative Chair

**Elizabeth Weller**  
216Duke of Kent Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
weller.betty@gmail.com

### Community Service

**Billie Lynne Roberts**  
26661 Old Still Pond Road  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
db.roberts@verizon.net

### Hospitality

**/Program Co- Chairs  
Kathy Clark**  
199 Rolling Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
gdclark2@verizon.net

### Nancy McCloy

PO Box 105  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
nmccloy@aol.com

### Trips/Social Activities

**Ruth Wilson**  
102 East Campus Avenue  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
rwilson26@verizon.net

## Executive Committee 2023 -2024

### Membership

#### /Pre-Retirement Co-Chairs

**Sue Crooks**  
26895 Mallard RD  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
susanlcrooks@yahoo.com

Nancy Harrington  
530 High Bridge Road  
Millington, MD 21651  
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### Newsletter

**Glenn Michael**  
23169 Old Fairlee RD  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
fastaperture@gmail.com

### Terri Mullikin

5885 Cottage Avenue  
Roch Hall, MD 21661  
rockhallpixie@verizon.net

### Sunshine

**Sue Coleman**  
178 Birchwood Lane  
Galena, MD 21635  
magpiesuz@gmail.com

### Scholarship Co Chairs

**Billie Lynne Roberts**  
26661 Old Still Pond Road  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
db.roberts@verizon.net

### Sue Crooks

26895 Mallard RD  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
susanlcrooks@yahoo.com

### Charlotte Potts

PO Box 446  
Chestertown, MD 21620

### Brenda Shorter

10387 Bunting RD  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
bshorter20@gmail.com

### Little Libraries

**Terri Mullikin**  
5885 Cottage Avenue  
Roch Hall, MD 21661  
rockhallpixie@verizon.net

### Assisting . . .

Nancy Harrington,  
Emily Massey,  
Debbie Smith,  
Jean Wright.







The March  
General Meeting  
of KCRSPA  
held at  
The Rock  
Rock Hall, Maryland  
It was a great brunch!

*Photos by  
Lee Hunley*



## Scholarship Committee Report

We were pleased to receive twelve completed applications for the KCRSPA 2024 scholarship. The Scholarship committee met to review the applications and selected five students to be awarded our scholarship. All of these students have achieved academic success and earned the praise of their teachers and community. Each will receive \$1000 to be sent to their college of choice. Scholarships will be presented at 6:00 pm, on May 16, at the KCHS Awards Night. Please mark the date if you are able to attend and support these students.

The students who received our award have impressive achievements. Three young ladies have a sincere desire to teach. Another plans a career in nursing. The fifth award goes to a student interested in being a translator for International Business. We wish them success with the challenges ahead.

Some of our scholarship monies come from a group of retired educators started by former superintendent of Kent County Public Schools, Dr. Lorraine Costella. For many years generous gifts from this group have helped us support students in Kent County. We thank Dr. Costella, Dr. Bonnie Ward, and friends for their continued support. Also, we congratulate Dr. Costella who plans to retire from Goucher College where she taught for 20 years after leaving her superintendent's post at Kent County Public Schools.

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND !!

Thank you to all friends and colleagues who contribute to the scholarship fund. We ask members to make an annual \$25 donation. Your donations are very important to secure our ability to provide scholarships to deserving KCHS seniors. As the prices of everything increase, your donations are very important. It is our mission to provide financial aid to young people as they begin their career paths.

In the newsletter you will find a form to use for donations. Also, in the newsletter you will find a list of members who have made contributions in 2024. Many thanks to those folks.

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## Community Service

Many of our members are doing valuable volunteer activities in the community. We annually recognize outstanding service of members who are positively impacting the community. This year we nominated Susan Clark for the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF). She actively donates many hours to help improve the lives of others in our community.

Other volunteer activities include donations to local food pantries, clothing and hygiene products donated to elementary and middle schools, and Little Libraries in Kent County where students and adults borrow books. Thanks to Emily Massey and Debbie Smith for maintaining the libraries. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the Rock Hall Watermens' Museum. Recently, items were donated by members to the Animal Care and Shelter Center of Kent County. We received a nice thank you letter from that organization.

Nina Newlin has agreed to join the Community Service committee. Thank you, Nina!

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## Membership Reminders

MRSPA state dues will increase by \$5.00 starting July 1st. A unified member will now owe \$65.00. Our local dues will not be increased.

Please remember MRSPA is the only association that protects our pension, advocates for retirement benefits retirees need, and is the voice of retired educators on issues that matter.

Gift Card Recruitment Incentive MRSPA is continuing the \$10 gift card incentive to ANY member who recruits a NEW member who signs up for DUES DEDUCTION. Simply WRITE YOUR NAME on the application as the recruiter before sending it to MRSPA. MRSPA will send you a gift card!. The NEW member who signs up for DUES DEDUCTION will also receive the ONE-TIME \$10 reduction in state dues, so their state dues will be \$40 for 2024-2025. Local dues are additional.

Switch and Save Invitation: MRSPA will extend an invitation (in May) to cash dues paying members to switch to dues deduction for 2024-2025. If they make the switch, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$40 for state dues, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2024-2025 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>).

## Membership

The good news is that KCRSPA membership is growing! Since the last report we have gained new members. Currently we have 101 Unified members, 4 local and 4 Emeritus. A huge thank you to everyone who has recruited our new members. Please continue to talk about our wonderful group and to reach out to anyone you come in contact with who may be interested in joining. *Susan Crooks*

## Legislative Update – End of 2024 Legislative Session

On April 8, the 2024 Maryland legislative session ended. This year is an election year with a budget shortfall and a bridge disaster. What does that mean? Basically, it means anything that was controversial or cost money was put off for another year.

All in all, the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association had a pretty good session. Ten of our bills passed and 12 of the bills we opposed are dead. Attached is the last update of bills MRSPA was following. The chart shows bill number, the title of the bill, who the sponsor was, when the last hearings were scheduled and if the bills went to the Governor for a signature or not. file:///Users/BettyWeller/Downloads/LegisUpdate.4.10.24.docx.

For more information on specific bills or sponsors, just click on the blue links in the chart. If you can't click on the links, to the Maryland legislative website, which is <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Index/house>.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Betty Weller



Mrs. Mary G. Fisher was inducted into the **MD State Athletic Directors Association's (MSADA) Hall of Fame!** Mary's teaching career began in 1968. She taught physical education and health. She coached KCHS's very first volleyball and softball programs, and she was the AD for Kent for 16 years. During her tenure at KCHS, she added girls soccer, girls lacrosse, and girls and boys swimming as varsity sports. She was the first female president of the Bayside Conference (1999-2001). She also taught several years in Caroline County, after retiring from Kent, served as an Assistant Vice Principal in Caroline County for a period of time, then she finally retired again in 2022.

The KCRSPA congratulates Mary G. Fisher on her most recent accomplishment!



## Donations to KCRSPA Scholarship Fund

We appreciate donations made to date in 2024 from the following people.  
Remember: our major mission is to support students planning to further their education.  
Please show your support. Thank you.

Almaz Yosef - in memory of Miriam Spriggs  
Charlotte Potts  
Margie Baker - in memory of Miriam Spriggs  
Suzanne Coleman - in memory of Thelma O'Grady ( Miss Nick)  
Mary Siemen  
Billie Lynne Roberts - in memory of Judy Stap

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### Scholarship Fund

Help us fulfill our mission to support high school students planning their college careers. It is through your donations that we are able to award scholarships to deserving Kent County High School students. These scholarships mean a lot to students and their families.

In the past 16 years our association has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships. These awards are made possible by our members who are asked to contribute \$25 annually. Many thanks to those who already made a contribution. Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting students.

***Remember: This is a major goal of our organization!  
All donations allow us to continue the scholarship program.  
Names of donors will be listed in the Newsletter.***

One student wrote : "Thank you for believing in me and my ability to succeed..."

***Please think about a donation to our fund for the next school year and use the form provided.***

***Thank you for your consideration.***

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#### Scholarship Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

In honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support.**

Checks may be made to **KCRSPA** and mailed to :

**Debbie Smith  
200 Pear Tree Point Rd  
Chestertown, MD. 21620**



**KCRSPA LUNCHEON  
 JUNE 6, 2024  
 12:00 'til 2:00  
 on the  
 CHESTER RIVER PACKET**

It's here!!! Our 2nd annual luncheon cruise on the Chester River Packet is on **Thursday, June 6th**. Just like last year, the cruise has a different time frame than our regular luncheons.

**Boarding time is 11:45 a.m. at the foot of High Street.**

We sail promptly at 12:00 and return at 2:00 p.m.

**Price is \$50/person** (increase of \$5 from last year),  
 and reservations **MUST BE IN BY THURSDAY, MAY 30TH.**

***We cannot add late-comers after the due date.***

Drink prices are the same as last year: \$2 for soft drinks, \$7 for beer and wine, \$8 for mixed drinks.  
 Only water is free.

**MENU**

Filet Mignon Sliders with horseradish sauce

Cold Shrimp

(Gluten Free) Pasta Salad

Green Salad

Cookies

We put great effort into making sure there was something everyone could eat, given that there is a set menu. But, if there is NOTHING on that menu that you can eat, please contact Kathy Clark to see if other arrangements can be made.

**Reservations due May 30th to:  
 Kathy Clark  
 199 Rolling Rd.  
 Chestertown, Md. 21620**

I will be attending the June luncheon. Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_