

FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate



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FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APRIL, 2015

SPRING FEVER

by

John Dent, President, FCRE



A big hello to all FCRE members as we move into the spring season and warmer weather! It has been an historic winter with all the snow, icy conditions, and extremely cold weather.

We are not talking about Boston, Massachusetts. We are talking about good old Northern Virginia and our local area. I can't remember when I have slipped, slid, and ached so much from the black ice and snow shoveling. Transplanted Northerners rant and rave about our response to the weather totals we receive here, but it only takes an unanticipated slip down the steps (just cleaned) for me to be glad I am not in Boston looking at mountains of snow. Boston will be staring at snow while we are beginning to see tips of crocuses and daffodils coming up through the soil.

Last December I wrote about transitions happening to FCRE with our anticipated move to the new office in Springfield so graciously provided by our good friends, **Apple Federal Credit Union**.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Larry Kelly, Apple's CEO, for making all this possible for us. Because of **Larry Kelly** and his people, namely **Rick Case** and **Rick Taddeo**, our move was made easier. We are so grateful to them for the supplied crates and help in coordinating the move. It went like clockwork. Volunteers from FCRE cataloged, packed, threw away (or repurposed) our FCRE records, furniture, and equipment. At a scheduled date, the Apple movers took our 35 crates, file cabinets, pictures, chairs, etc. to our **new** location at the Apple Federal Credit Union in Springfield, Va. A big thank you to **Larry Kelly** and all our friends and supporters at Apple Federal Credit Union!

I also want thank our Executive Committee and the entire Board of Directors for their help in planning and completing the move to Springfield. Their efforts made on behalf of FCRE made this move smooth and enjoyable!

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have already put our new location to good use: our regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the executive Committee and the Board of Directors; the labeling and sorting of two newsletters; and presentation of our latest tours/trips.

Along with the good news of the move, we have some other news to report. In the move, we had to leave our old furniture: the big Board room table, side chairs, storage shelves, and partition walls. We are in the process of selling this furniture or donating it for reuse. Apple Federal Credit Union has furnished us with beautiful appointments in our new office. Again, thank you, Apple Federal Credit Union!

Our spring activities continue with the selection of new officers for the new year. Our Scholarship Director is working hard to find worthy recipients for our scholarships. We have an upcoming FCPS Retirement Ceremony in April where FCRE gives a free one year membership to all retirees. Our travel coordinator has introduced some new travel choices for the summer and

early fall. Be sure and check out these offerings in this issue. Our book groups and bridge groups are in full swing and are always looking for FCRE members to join them. The Cinema Arts Theatre group is always happy to see FCRE members at their gatherings, and we get a special price!

We have our April Luncheon meeting with an interesting speaker who will tell us of spies in love during the Civil War. Our last luncheon in June will be dedicated to our Scholarship recipients. This is always a fun and rewarding occasion. Be sure to mark your calendar for June 11, 2015 Luncheon Meeting. Stay tuned for more information next time on special guests at our June Luncheon!

In the meantime, enjoy the spring and continue to stay active--especially in FCRE!♦



NOTE: At the April 9, 2015, FCRE Luncheon, the chef at the Elks Lodge will be serving **CRAB CAKES**. If you are allergic to crab or shellfish, please indicate this when you make your reservation and ask for a substitute meal for the **APRIL 9, 2015 Luncheon**. We want to keep you safe!



VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Eva Pappas, Vice President and Program Director

Our April Luncheon speaker is **Susan Inskip Gray**. Her interest in history came from her grandfather who regaled her as a child with stories of the Civil War. It also helped that she was raised in a pre-civil war home in West Virginia where she lived with her grandfather and family.

Mrs. Gray's program is titled *Love and Legacy: the Civil War Romance of Antonia Ford and Major Joseph C. Willard*.

This illustrated talk is about the romance between Confederate spy Antonia Ford from Fairfax and Union Army Major Joseph C. Willard, owner of the Willard Hotel in Washington. The talk is based upon the collection of original letters in the collections of both Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center and the Library of Congress.

Mrs. Gray is Curator/Visitor Services Manager with the City of Fairfax's Office of Historic Resources. Prior to coming to work at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center in 1998, she was a contract Museum Specialist with the National Park Service and a docent at Tudor Place, an historic house in Washington, D.C.

She has a B.S. degree in journalism and political science from West Virginia University and a M.A. degree in American History from George Mason University. Before beginning a second career in the history/museum field, she worked in various media positions.

I met Susan Gray while visiting the Fairfax City Museum on Main Street. I had lived in Fairfax over forty years and passed it hundreds of times when I finally decided to take a peek. That is when I learned it is the Historic Fairfax Elementary School built in 1873. It is the oldest two story brick public school house in Fairfax County. Bricks were made from a clay pit on the Farr Property across Main Street. The original portion of this structure, the rear, was built for the then considered exorbitant cost of \$2,750. The front was added in 1912. It is a small museum but houses some interesting "gems". If you are like me and have passed this hidden treasure without checking it out, please do so. It is worth a visit!♦



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APRIL 9, 2015 NEXT MEMBER LUNCHEON

LOCATED AT:

Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50)

Fairfax, Virginia

AGENDA:

11:00 a.m.--Social Hour and cash bar--meet and greet friends.

11:45 a. m.--Lunch--crab cakes! And chicken.

12:30 p. m.--Program--Susan Inskip Gray:

Love and Legacy: The Civil War Romance of Antonia Ford and Major Joseph C. Willard.

--Business Meeting



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations **must** be received by phone, mail, or email **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, April 3, 2015; we have to give the Elks Lodge the definite number by that date and time. Please call, mail, or email early!**

1. **BY MAIL**--Mail your name, name(s) of guests, and check for **\$15** for members, **\$18** for guests. Make your checks payable to **FCRE**, and mail to **Fairfax County Retired Educators**

Luncheon Reservations

P. O. Box 75

Fairfax, VA 22038-0075

OR:

2. **CALL:** **703-923-9877**
Leave your name (please spell slowly), phone number, and guest name(s)

OR:

3. **EMAIL-- luncheon@fcree.org**
We still want the same information--your name, and your guest(s) if you are bringing any.

NOTE: If you email us with your reservation, expect a reply that your reservation has been received. If you don't receive a reply, please send again because we did not receive your reservation.

**Cost of luncheon: \$15.00 for members of FCRE
\$18 for each guest.**

Members and guests without reservations may be accommodated at \$21.00 per person only if space is available.

Unclaimed reservations will be billed.



MEMBER SERVICES TOURS

by
Doris Patteson, Director



URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!
DUE DATES FOR DEPOSITS! NEW TRIPS ADDED! ACT NOW!

NEW TRIPS!

FCRE is presenting some new trips for this year. If you were not able to attend the slide presentation on March 17, call Doris at **703-534-3975** for more information on these trips:

NOVA SCOTIA--MARITIME COASTAL WONDERS.

1. April 15, 2015--Deposit/insurance due \$250/\$205.

2. 10 days: Depart on August 24, 2015

Great trip at this time of the year to escape the summer heat. Highlights of this trip are: Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Cape Breton Island, Cabot Trail, Prince Edward Island, Anne of Green Gables House, Hopewell Rocks, Funday Trail, and Lunenburg.

3. Cost is \$3655, double occupancy, includes air.

HEART OF THE SOUTH: November 8-15, 2015

1. May 8, 2015--Deposit/insurance due, \$250/\$205.

2. Depart November 8, 2015.

Features of this trip include the French Quarter in New Orleans and the Court of Two Sisters--one of the most famous restaurants in New Orleans; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Natchez, Mississippi; and Martin Accordions. This family owned business entertains with their own Cajun music and stories. A visit to Vermilion Ville is on the agenda. Vermilion Ville is a 23

acre living history museum and folk park which show-

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION. (Pasadena-Rose Bowl Parade) December 29--January 3, 2016

1. July 29, 2015--Deposit/insurance due; \$250/\$205

2. Depart December 29, 2015.

This tour features the Tournament of the Roses Parade and Pasadena. The tour begins in Los Angeles. We journey to Pasadena where we join in the festivities surrounding the Tournament of Roses floats in their final stage of decorating. We will attend a band fest featuring selected bands from all over the country (continued in the next column)

SPLENDID SICILIA: April 10, 2015--Deposit/insurance due. The dates for this trip is October 16-25, 2015.

Features of this trip are Palermo, Syracuse, and Taormina. Refer to last month's *Advocate* for details. This trip is not one that you will want to miss!

WINTER IN YELLOWSTONE: July 17, 2015--

Deposit/insurance due. Dates for this trip are January 24-30, 2016. Take advantage of the early booking discount! See the details of this trip in the March *Advocate!* You may have seen Yellowstone but not in the magical winter of snow and ice sparkling on trees. Absolutely spectacular scenery!

SHADES OF IRELAND--Deposit/insurance date has passed! A few spaces remain! If interested, call **Doris Patteson at 703-534-3975!** Act now before the spaces are filled by other groups!

NEW TRIPS!, continued:

Southern California New Year's, continued from column 1:

that will perform in the parade. We will attend a New Year's Eve Gala dinner dance with live entertainment. And we will toast the New Year in with champagne.

On New Year's Day we attend the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. We will have reserved seating for prime viewing. After the Parade, we journey to San Diego where we will tour the Gas Lamp Quarter, Balboa Park, Coronado Island, and Old Town San Diego. We will have three nights in Los Angeles and two nights in San Diego.

3. The cost is \$2549, double occupancy, includes air.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the trips, call Doris Patteson at **703-534-3975'**

Or, if you would like to take any of the Collette trips that we are not booking as a group, she can also arrange that and give your discounts.



MEMBER ACTIVITIES

by
Barbara Marshall, Director

BOOK GROUPS

- Annandale Book Group--Lois Brown, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon in Lois' home.
- Fairfax City Group--Sue Williams, coordinator. Meets at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st Thursday in Barnes and Noble at Fairlakes. **Note:** In April this group will meet the 2nd Friday of the month.
- Tysons Tower Group--Anita Cline, coordinator. Meets at 2:00 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday. Book to be decided.
- Vienna Tuesday Book Group--Joey Graves, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center.
- Vienna Retired Ladies Group--Marlene Gregory, coordinator. The next meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Oakton Library.

BRIDGE GROUPS

- FCRE Group--Meets 2nd and 4th Monday mornings. Contact person is Barbara Marshall at 571-203-0375 or bmarshall12@verizon.net. This group will meet at the Vienna American Legion this month. The Legion is located at 303 Center St., Vienna, VA 22180.
- Tuesday Morning Group--Coordinator is Sandy Smith. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in homes.
- Third Monday Evening Group--Coordinators are Claudette Coffey and Joey Graves. Meets in homes at 7:00 p.m.
- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday Bridge Group--Coordinator is Nancy Smagala. Meets at David R. Pinn Community Center on Zion Road in Burke at 9:45-12:00. Players do not stay for lunch. Email nsmagala@aol.com for more information.
- The Review Bridge Group with Dave Meadows meets at the Vienna American Legion on the 2nd 4th Mondays at 1:00 p. m.

CINEMA ARTS GROUP

Meet your friends at the Cinema Arts Group which meets at the Cinema Arts Theater on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Cinema Arts Theatre in Pickett Shopping Center across from Woodson High School.

Join your friends for a good movie and lunch afterwards at the First Watch Café.

Contact person is **Alicia Clelland** at cllellaap@cox.net Email Alicia if you would like to be included on the email list for the next film.

SPRING CLEANING? DONATE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP SALE!

The Scholarship Committee is starting early this year to collect your "good stuff" and "stuff" for the December Luncheon, 2015. While you are spring cleaning, look at what you may throw out and donate it to FCRE. Your "old stuff" may be someone's new treasures!

Now that we are settled in our new office space, we can store your donations for our big sale in December, 2015!

If we make \$2000.00, we can give another scholarship to a deserving high school graduate who is planning to go into education.

Please start bringing your donations to this April Luncheon and the June Luncheon. We will be around this summer to take your donations if you put off your spring cleaning until the summer!

The plan now is to have two auctions: a silent auction of your most beautiful and glorious donations and the flea market type sale we had in 2013. We want to be sure that there is some wonderful treasure or fabulous trinket for everyone. And remember, this is all for a good cause.--our Scholarship Fund!

Please bring your donations to this April Luncheon and give them to Anita Francis, our Office Manager, who will be checking you in.

In the past, we have had some wonderful donations and have made money for our scholarship cause. The Scholarship Committee is asking that you look around as you spring, summer, fall clean, and find something for the Committee to sell! We are not proud. We take almost anything.

Ladies, go through your jewelry--you know that you want some new items; give us your old! And purses? We will take them, gently used, of course. Christmas decorations are a big seller, and you might want to donate some old ones in order to buy new ones! Getting ready for the sun? Donate your old sunglasses! Floral arrangements? You surely need to refresh your arrangements; give us what you want to get rid of. Vases, platters, bowls, candlesticks, candles (unused); throw pillows, etc. Scarves are always a big seller, and surely you need to refresh your wardrobe with some new bright colors. We will take your old bright colors and make it possible that someone else can refresh their wardrobe with gently used donated scarves.

Don't forget! Bring your donations to the April Luncheon and give them to Anita Francis when you check in for the luncheon! We need your help! Find those money makers for us so FCRE can give scholarship money to deserving graduates who want to go into our profession!♦

NEW MEMBERS TO FCRE!

Welcome to Fairfax County Retired Educators! You have joined a great organization which does many activities! We hope you will find something you like to do in the organization as you practice recreational research in your new retirement!

Our new members are:

Fran Becallo
Karen Heroth

Next September when the school buses roll, you can be elsewhere! Check our travel information as well as our book groups and bridge games. We have 6 luncheon meetings--see the back for the dates for the rest of the year! Again, welcome to FCRE!♦

FCRE OFFICER SLATE 2015-2016

The Nominating Committee announced the names of the nominees for three FCRE officers for the 2015-2016 year. They are:

Vice President--Eva Pappas
Secretary--Anita Cline
Treasurer--Barbara Dent

At the **February 12, 2015**, luncheon meeting, additional nominations were asked to be made from the FCRE members present at the luncheon. Linda Beuhring nominated Billie Johnson for President Elect. Ms. Johnson accepted the nomination for President Elect.

In any year in which there is only one nominee for each elective office of FCRE, the Board of Directors shall recommend acceptance of the slate of candidates by acclamation at the second from last general membership meeting of the fiscal year which will be **April 9, 2015**. The Board of Directors recommended acceptance of this slate of officers at their meeting on March 12, 2015.♦

FCRE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!!!!

If you have a copy of the 2006 FCPS Benefits Brochure, could you please notify the FCRE Office at 703-923-9877. Thank you!

HISTORY AND RECORDS

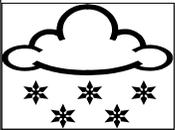
by
Phyllis McDevitt

Thank you to our website coordinator, Barbara Dent, for posting the photos of FCRE events in a slide show format on the FCRE website!

All of you look terrific and energetic! Please check our website at www.fcrc.org and see how we are doing at our various book groups, art film group, and bridge groups!

FCRE RECOMMENDATION:

FCRE RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WITHDRAW FROM YOUR FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPONSORED HEALTH PLAN. IF YOU DO, YOU CANNOT REJOIN!



SNOW!!!! SNOW!

If ice, snow, or other inclement weather occurs on the days of our luncheons or activities, please listen to your radio or television. If Fairfax County Public Schools are closed, our activities are cancelled as well. If FCPS opens late, our activities will operate on time.

Given our awful winter, you cannot be too careful. And we have had snow in April!

THANK YOU!

FCRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR ENDEAVORS!

ARE YOU IN THE PINK? IF SO, IT IS TIME TO RENEW!

1. Check the expiration date above your name on your mailing label. If it reads, "Expires June 30, 2015 and is outlined in PINK, it is time to RENEW !!! It is easy to renew; here is what you do.
2. Write your check (payable to FCRE) for \$75.00 for 3 year renewal, or \$30.00 for one year renewal
3. Please write your **membership number** (it is on the line above your name on your mailing label) and the word **Renewal** on the memo line of your check.
4. Mail your check to:

(One year--\$30.00)
(Three years-\$75.00)

FCRE
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
P. O. BOX 75
FAIRFAX, VA 22038-0075

That's all you do to renew! Renew now!

