

FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate



VOL. XXXVII, No. 4

Fairfax County, Virginia

December, 2015

REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR

by
John F. Dent, President

Hello to all FCRE members! As I write this, we are at the start of the Holiday Season although it seems like it has been going on for at least a month. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, we want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

2015 has been an active and fast paced year. Starting in January with our Lobby Trip to Richmond to contact our legislators, the next several months were active with great luncheons and luncheon speakers. On top of these activities, FCRE moved to new facilities in the Springfield Apple Federal Credit Union. Our Board members and FCRE members packed up our Fairfax Office, and the Apple Federal Credit Union graciously moved us to our new office. We barely skipped a beat and hosted regular Executive Committee and Board meetings just days after the move during snow, floods and fire alarms.

Planning for the April Fairfax County Schools Retirement Ceremony prepared us for meeting and greeting new members. May brought meetings with Dr. Karen Garza and her staff which allowed us to join forces with FEA-R retirees in communicating our concerns for discussions about retiree matters.

In June, FCRE celebrated with our Scholarship Luncheon which treated us to an impressive group of scholarship winners preparing to go to college with hopes of becoming educators. We were able to give seven \$2000 scholarships thanks to the generosity of the Mary Ambler Trust, Apple Federal Credit Union, the Bobbi Vest Memorial Scholarships, the Harriet Mika Memorial Scholarship, and the donations of our members. The summer months were slow and allowed many of us to travel to exotic destinations through Collette Vacations.

Just the right amount of time away from the Northern Virginia area allowed us to be refreshed and prepare for the fall. We had meetings with the FCPS Human Resources staff who gave us detailed information that would be presented to all retirees during Open Enrollment for Health Benefits. We will continue to have meetings with Human Resources staff to offer input and suggestions for the future.

It has been a great experience for me to work with our FCRE members as we continue to advocate for the needs of retirees who helped build a quality school system. As the Holiday Season preparation intensifies, we want to offer our best wishes and holiday joy to all of you and your families. Be safe in your travels this holiday season and enjoy all of the festivities in good health!

For your information, there will be a SPECIAL JANUARY ISSUE of the ADVOCATE to give information for our Lobby Day in Richmond. Watch for it!♦

**JANUARY 27, 2016--2:00 p.m.--TRAVEL
PRESENTATION AT THE FCRE OFFICE IN
SPRINGFIELD. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW!**



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.



THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
Eva Pappas, Vice President, Program Chairman

GET IN THE SPIRIT!

It is time to get into the spirit of the holidays which are rapidly approaching.

One of the best ways to do this is to listen to the angelic voices of W. T. Woodson's choral group.

FCRE is fortunate to have **Michael Ehrlich** and his vocal ensemble entertain us at our December 10 Luncheon. Mr. Ehrlich is the Music Director from W. T. Woodson High School. We are overjoyed that he and they will be joining us again after a year hiatus.

Mr. Ehrlich's choral ensemble has consistently received superior ratings at the Virginia Music Educators' Association Choral Festival and each spring-trip festival since the ensemble's inception in 1991. Mr. Ehrlich and his choral students returned from a very successful European tour this past summer. Needless to say, their many accolades are too numerous to list here.

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing some of Woodson's finest perform for us. These students are going to transport us to another time and place in song.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 10 and the FCRE Luncheon and join us for another unforgettable performance.

Remember to bring a friend or two or three to share the festivities! And bring your checkbook and cash for the Holiday Sale for our Scholarship Program. The sale will be held before the Luncheon and the Woodson Choral performance.

Let's have a great turnout and show our support for our wonderful organization!

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made by phone, by mail, and by email!

Reservations **must** be received by phone, mail, or email **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday,**

December 4, 2015; we have to give the Elks Lodge the definite number by that date and time. Please call, mail, or email early!

- 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 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682**

OR

(See Column 2 on this page)

DECEMBER 10, 2015 MEMBER LUNCHEON LOCATED AT:

Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., (Route 50)
Fairfax, Virginia

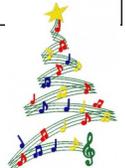
AGENDA:

10:00 a.m. TO 11:30 a. m.—Holiday Sale for Scholarships begins and ends! Come early to get bargains!

- **Bring cash and checkbooks—no credit cards!**
- **The luncheon is downstairs in the Elks Lodge**
- **Items for sale will be in the adjoining room.**
- **You see the item, you buy the item, no bids!**
- **All money goes to fund a Ford scholarship!**
- **Buy lots; you need these items!**

11:30—Lunch--Turkey and all the Fixings!

**12:30—W. T. Woodson Choral Ensemble directed by Michael Ehrlich
—Business Meeting**



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS, continued from Column 1

OR:

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

OR:

- 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--TRAVEL



by
Doris Patteson, Director

JANUARY 27, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**PRESENTATIONS OF ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FEST, and a
HOLIDAY TRIP, MAGICAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS
AT THE FCRE OFFICE, SPRINGFIELD APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION, 6708 BACKLICK ROAD, Springfield, VA 22150.**

Collette is bring back one of their holiday trips, **Magical Christmas Markets**. This will be a one-hotel stay in Innsbruck, Austria, with day trips going out to Christmas markets in Austria and Germany. I did this trip several years ago, and it really is magical. The Christmas markets are like fairylands. Would anyone be interested in this? We would plan for the trip the end of November, 2016 and the beginning of December, 2016 so there would be plenty of time for your own holiday preparations. And, you can do your shopping in the Christmas markets. Send me an email at dpatteson@verizon.net if you are interested!



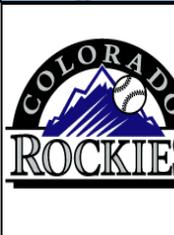
TROPICAL COSTA RICA--FEBRUARY 20-28, 2016. This particular trip is **CLOSED. BUT**, if you are interested there are other Costa Rica trips available. If you are interested we can book a trip for you through our World Connect program. We have already booked two other couples for this same trip but at different and more convenient times.



EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS AND BOTSWANA--MARCH 9-22, 2016. This is an "explorer trip" which limits the number of participants to 12-24 people, and this trip is fully booked, **BUT**, again there are other trips available if you are interested in this destination.



UK BY RAIL--JUNE 23-31, 2016--This is a new trip! **We have an urgent deadline for this trip. Deposit date is NOVEMBER 27.** This is a venture by train to three of Britain's most lively cities--Edinburgh, York, and London. Some of the highlights include a tour of Edinburgh, a Scottish Evening, Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews Whiskey distillery, York, Castle Howard, the Yorkminster, London, Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, traditional English Pub Dinner. The cost of this trip is \$4339 per person, double occupancy. There is an early booking discount of \$250. All our trips include air. **If you are interested, you must act immediately.**



JULY 23-31, 2016-- THE COLORADO ROCKIES. This trip was the former Colorado by Trains trip. It has been modified with a new itinerary. The highlights of this trip include Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Junction, Arches National Park, Canyon Lands National Park, Colorado National Monument, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Pike's Peak Cog Railway and Garden of the Gods. This trip takes you to some of the most beautiful National Parks and the train trips are so much fun. The cost of this trip is \$2804 per person, double occupancy. It includes airfare. The deposit/insurance date is **January 15, 2016.**



AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 8, 2016. IMPERIAL CITIES: Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Highlights of this trip include Prague, Hradcany Castle, Folklore Dinner and Show, Cesky Krumlov; Vienna, Grinzing Evening, Schoenbrunn Palace, Danube River Cruise, Bratislava, Budapest, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, Szentendre, and a Renaissance Dinner. Some of us may plan a pre-extension to Berlin. The cost is \$3760 per person, double occupancy. The deposit date is **February 22, 2016! Book early, and take advantage of early booking discounts!**

If we are not offering your dream trip, just go to the internet and type: gocollette.com and find your special place. Then, call me, **Doris Patteson, at 703-534-3975**, and I will book it for you. And I will give you all our discounts.

Call me with any of your concerns at the above number or email me at dpatteson@verizon.net.
Note: all our prices are based on double occupancy. Our trips also include airfare.



PLAN YOUR TRIP BEFORE THE SNOW FLIES!



MEMBER ACTIVITIES

by
Barbara Marshall, Director



BOOK GROUPS

MESSAGE FOR THE VIENNA RETIRED LADIES GROUP: If possible, I would like someone from this group to contact me, Barbara Marshall, at 571-203-0375 or by email: bmarshall12@verizon.net

- Annandale Book Group--Dottie Addison, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon in various places. Call 703-971-8479 for more information.
- Fairfax City Group--Sue Williams, coordinator. Meets at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd Friday in Barnes and Noble at Fairlakes.
- Vienna Tuesday Book Group--Joey Graves, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center. The book for November is *Someone* by Alice McDermott.

BRIDGE GROUPS

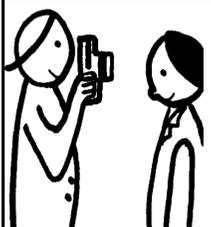
- FCRE Group--Meets 2nd and 4th Monday mornings. Contact person is Barbara Marshall at 571-203-0375 or bmarshall12@verizon.net. This group will meet at the Vienna American Legion. The Legion is located at 303 Center St., Vienna, VA 22180.
- Tuesday Morning Group--Coordinator is Sandy Smith. Meets the 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 meets at 1:00 p.m. at The Vienna American Legion on the 2nd and 4th Mondays after the morning bridge there. The Review Bridge Group is led by Dave Meadows.

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 clellaap@cox.net Email Alicia if you would like to be included on the email list for the next film.



HISTORY AND RECORDS

by
Linda Beuhring and Phyllis McDevitt,
Directors

(continued, History and Records:)

Just put that camera on flash and take several photos. Do several shots that are horizontal as well as vertical. Make sure you have not cut off anybody's head, that eyes are not closed, and guess what! You have pictures of what your special group or activity is doing!

We will try to drop in on some of your groups and activities, but we need your help to make sure we have recorded the events of this year.

And after you have taken your pictures, call the **FCRE OFFICE at 703-923-9877 or email FCRE at fcrc@fcrc.org** We will get back to you on what to do next! Thank you so much for helping us get your great pictures of your groups and activities!♦

Have you taken a picture of your special group this year? We need your pictures of what you are doing! If you are having a holiday party for your book group or your bridge group, take a good picture for us!

There is space in this year's first semester and second semester photo books to include pictures of your gatherings. Please take pictures!

We would like to ask you to take your pictures with that little digital camera that you have! Digital phones do not give enough resolution to record your fabulous doings!

(continued second column this page.)





REMEMBRANCES

Fairfax County Retired Educators is saddened by the loss of two of its members:

Louise M. Souk
September 11, 2015

Dorothy J. Spencer
October 30, 2015

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

THANK YOU!

FCRE would like to take this opportunity to thank the Apple Federal Credit Union for their continued support in our activities. We really appreciate you!

REMEMBER:

FCRE Recommendation: Do NOT under any circumstances withdraw from your Fairfax County Public Schools-sponsored health insurance plan. If you do, you cannot rejoin!



FCRE Request for Digital Version of Advocate Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the FCRE newsletter in a digital format instead of the hard copy presently mailed to you, please fill out the form below and return it to the FCRE office. We are offering this option as we move towards digital communications with our members.

Name (please print): _____

Email address (please print): _____

Send this form to:

FCRE
P.O. Box 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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CHOOSE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF:

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____ whatever you can
____ Annual Or ____ Endowment

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____

MAKE CHECKS TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEND TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FCRE
P. O. BOX 682
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682



DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS.

FCRE *ADVOCATE*
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
P.O. BOX 682
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682

DECEMBER 2015

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FCRE LUNCHEON DATES

Thursday, February 11, 2016
(Thursday, March 10, 2016--
make up day if February
Luncheon is snowed out.)
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Thursday, June 9, 2016

DECEMBER, 2015

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Editors: Billie Johnson and Walt Mika

Change of address, articles, letters, and comments should be sent by mail only to:

Fairfax County Retired Educators

FCRE *Advocate*

P. O. Box 682

Springfield, VA 11250-0682

Email: fcre@fcre.org

Website: www.fcre.org

OFFICERS FOR 2015—2016 (July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016)

President.....John Dent

Vice President..... Eva Pappas

Secretary.....Anita Cline

Treasurer.....Barbara Dent

President ElectBillie Johnson

Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Budget and Finance.....Walt Mika

Communications.....Ken McDaniel

Health Benefits.....Walt Mika



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued:

History and Records.....Phyllis McDevitt

Linda Beuhring

Information/Publications.....Billie Johnson

Legato School Museum.....Sue Langley

Government Relations/Legislative...Barbara Allen

Luncheon Director.....

Membership..... To be filled

Member Activities.....Barbara Marshall

Member Services-Tours.....Doris Patteson

Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

Program Director.....Eva Pappas

W. Harold Ford Scholarship..... Phyllis Rittman

Office Manager..... Anita Francis

Remembrances..... Kathleen Donnelly

Mary McKinley

Receipts Accounting.....FCRE Elf

Membership Records.....Dee Kirby

TO REACH
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED
EDUCATORS:
CALL: 703-923-9877 OR
EMAIL US AT: fcre@fcre.org and
luncheon@fcre.org
WEBSITE: www.fcre.org