



## SPY PLANES! SPY PLANES! SPY PLANES!

by

Eva Pappas, Vice President and Program Chairman

If you visit the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, you will notice that one of its central exhibits is a large ethereal looking black plane. It takes your breath away with its sleek lines and imposing appearance. It almost looks like something from another world. That aircraft is the SR-71 also known as Blackbird. (See picture below)

The SR-71 is a long range Mach 3+ strategic aircraft. It is one of the last rounds of airplanes built before satellites made aircraft reconnaissance obsolete. for covert reconnaissance.



There is much about this aircraft which extended the bounds of technology to get it built. One interesting tidbit about the aircraft is the titanium used to build it was imported from Russia. The Russians never had an inkling they were actually contributing to the creation of an airplane being rushed into construction to spy on their homeland.

It was developed in the 1960s by Lockheed and the Skunk Works Division. American aerospace engineer Clarence "Kelly" Johnson was responsible for many of the design's innovative concepts. During aerial reconnaissance missions, the SR-71 operated at high speeds and altitudes to allow it to outrace threats. If a surface to air missile launch was detected, the standard evasive action was simply to accelerate and outfly the missile.

The SR-71 served the Air Force from 1964 to 1998. A total of thirty-two, twelve were lost in accidents, but none were lost to enemy action. Since 1976 the SR-71 has held the world record for the fastest air breathing manned aircraft.



Air Force Colonel "Buz" Carpenter, courtesy of the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum

Our guest speaker this month is retired Air Force Colonel "Buz" Carpenter. He has had an illustrious career. He hails from Oakland, California. He graduated from the USAF in June, 1967, and then completed pilot training at Williams AFB, Arizona in 1968. He has served as  
(continued in next column)

commander on numerous aircraft during numerous combat missions in Vietnam and during the Gulf War.

One of his assignments was aircraft commander and instructor pilot for the SR-71. Colonel Carpenter will share some of the features and feats of this incredible machine.

You will not want to miss hearing about some of Colonel Carpenter's jaw-dropping adventures!

Presently Buz Carpenter is a docent at the Udvar Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport.

In 2017, Carpenter was inducted in the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

So come to our September 13 FCRE Luncheon and hear about his adventures! You do not want to miss this luncheon and our speaker, Buz Carpenter!



## MESSAGE FROM THE FCRE PRESIDENT:

As I begin my term as President, I look forward to working with all of our members. The Fairfax County Retired Educators Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers who work to promote the interests of retired educators.

Regular meetings are held with the Fairfax County Public Schools Human Resources staff to ensure that health and other retiree benefits remain strong.

Funds raised by members along with donations support the scholarships that we annually offer to students studying to become teachers and educators.

Annually, together with FEA-R, a group travels to Richmond to meet with our Virginia legislators.

The social side of FCRE is evidenced in the six luncheons held throughout the year. (See the next column on this page for all the information on our first luncheon to be held on September 13 at the Elks Lodge) The luncheons provide a way for members to enjoy good food, hear a speaker, or be entertained, and catch up with their retired colleagues.

FCRE also provides travel programs through our partnership with Collette, our travel agency. We have monthly movie outings, bridge groups, and book groups. I hope to expand our offerings this year to include teas and concerts.

To continue to do this, FCRE needs your help. Please consider volunteering to help plan member activities, do luncheon set-up, write for the newsletter, help with the mailing of the newsletter, or other ways that you might help us. Please contact me at

**[cshelt@verizon.net](mailto:cshelt@verizon.net)**

if you want to become actively involved in FCRE.

I hope to see you at our luncheons as you continue to enjoy your retirement.

**Cathy Shelton,**  
President, FCRE

### THANK YOU,

### APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION!

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!

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 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 your friends!

11:30 a.m.—Luncheon Menu:

Cheese and Fruit before lunch

Coffee and tea

Lasagna-meat and vegetarian

Tossed salad, Creamed spinach

Apple Crisp with ice cream.

About 12:30 p.m.—Retired Colonel “**Buz**”

**Carpenter**, docent at the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport. He flew the **Blackbird, aka SR-71.**

**NOT TO BE MISSED!!**

### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS:

Reservation **must** be received by phone, mail or email no later than **12:00 noon on Friday, September 7, 2018!**

**We have to give the Elks Lodge the exact 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, Virginia, 22150-0682

OR

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

**LUNCHEON @FCRE.ORG**

We still want the same information: your name, and your guest(s) if 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

\$18.00 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.

**REMEMBER: FCRE recommends: Do NOT under any circumstances withdraw from your Fairfax County Public Schools—sponsored health insurance. If you do, you cannot rejoin!**

# TRAVEL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2018

by

Doris Patteson, Director, Member Services Tours

## Travel Report for Advocate for September 2018

Here is hoping that our members have returned from a scorching summer with ideas for some fall travel and plans for travel in 2019. We have some nice trips coming in, and we are excited for new adventures.

Our South America group of ten will be leaving September 6 for adventures in Chili, Argentina and Brazil with a couple extending their stay on a post-trip to the Amazon. We have three people returning from the Pacific Northwest trip from Seattle to San Francisco and another couple returning from a Switzerland excursion. Ten people will participate in the trip to Croatia and the Adriatic Coast in October while four people will depart in November for a down-under experience to Australia and New Zealand. Our holiday trip has filled up with 16 people traveling to Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans the end of November to enjoy the holiday lights and some special music.

Our deposit date for ***"Discover Panama"*** is approaching. This trip has a February departure, a great winter get-a-way where you can enjoy some summer weather while folks at home are out shoveling snow. The deposit is due by **September 13**. You will enjoy the Gamboa Rainforest Resort with a river view room and a balcony with a hammock. This isn't a cruise through the Panama Canal but a visit to the country of Panama; however, you will traverse the Panama Canal through two locks aboard the Pacific Queen. You will travel by dugout canoe to an Embera village to learn about indigenous culture. You will immerse yourself in the local culture at a dinner featuring a folklore and dance show and sample fresh Panamanian ceviche at the Mercade de Mariscos. You will taste the sweet sugarcane juice called "guarapa" at a sugar mill and take nature walks through the jungle forest. You will peruse a local handicraft market filled with crafts made by indigenous artisans as well as discover the various arts of creating Panamanian hats, masks and dresses. You will delve into history and biodiversity visiting a frog conservation center that protects critically endangered species including the Golden Frog. You will visit a butterfly exhibit and an orchard farm, see lots of unusual animals and birds plus much more, so don't miss out on this special place.

*Our deposit date for Portugal and Its Islands"* to depart April 27 is **October 19**. It is a good idea to get your deposit in early for any of the trips so you don't miss out. As you know Collette's insurance allows you to cancel up to one day prior to departure with no questions asked for a full refund should something come up preventing you from traveling. This is a great trip which not only allows you to visit the special attractions of Portugal (Lisbon, Sintra, Nazare, Obidos, Estoril, Cascais and Fatima) but also have the opportunity to visit its island (Madeira, known as the "Pearl of the Atlantic" and St. Michael, the largest of the Azorean islands). You will learn the secrets of Azorean cuisine with an interactive cooking demonstration. You will celebrate your Madeiran adventure with entertainment and a traditional dinner known as an "espetada." You will visit botanical gardens, enjoy a Fado dinner show, visit a pineapple plantations and see some spectacular scenery and historical sites.

We are offering a tour to ***"Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads"*** which includes the ***Passion Play in Oberammergau for 2020***. This may seem a long way out, but the tickets are selling out quickly and it is necessary to book early. Collette has 7 different trip options that include the Passion Play and many of them are completely sold out. Collette is the #1 Passion Play Tour Company and sold the largest allotment of tickets in 2010. This play only takes place once every ten years. Oberammergau presents this play in appreciation for the fact that their village was spared from the Black Plaque during the Thirty Year War in the 1600's. They present this play to honor the last days of Christ. The performers are all native to this village and they start growing their hair and beards more than a year in advance. Collette promises 4-star accommodations and the best available seating options at the play. This enchanting tour offers the best of Germany. You will travel to some of the country's most iconic cities. A few of the gems that you will enjoy include a guided tour of Hamelin with a flute-playing "Pied Piper", a local guide will lead you on a Beatles tour in Hamburg, you will explore the Hanseatic town of Lubeck, discover Rothenburg, a medieval gem in the heart of Franconia, tour Neuschwanstein Castle, (continued on page 3)

# FCRE TRAVEL, continued from page 3:

now if you would like to take advantage of this “once in a lifetime opportunity.” Some of us won’t have the opportunity to see the next one in 2030.

We will have a travel presentation of our *“Spectacular Scandinavia”* on Wednesday, October 10 at the FCRE Office in Springfield at 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars. This trip is set for August 1-14, 2019 and will include September, 2018Denmark, Sweden and Norway with a 4-day post trip to Iceland.

We will postpone our trip to Japan until 2020. Collette was late getting the dates out for this trip and we have several clients who were interested in Scandinavia and Japan but couldn’t do both in one year. By waiting until the next year we will be able to get an April date when the cherry blossoms are blooming in Japan so we will have something neat to look forward to.

Collette is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and has been offering some neat extras on our trips in celebration. We are proud of Collette. It is the oldest tour operator in the United States and is operated by the third generation of the Collette family. They are a very caring family and want to provide the best opportunities available to our clients. They consider us part of their family.

We now have brochures available for all of our trips for 2019. Call for brochures on any of the trips that interest you. Check out Collette's web site--[gocollette.com](http://gocollette.com). They have over 170 destinations and we can book you for any of those destinations and give you our discounts. We are here to give you the guidance you need and to share our experiences-- 703 534-3975 or [dwpatteson@gmail.com](mailto:dwpatteson@gmail.com).

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## THERE’S A NEW CHEF IN TOWN !!!!

(For our luncheons at the Elks Lodge)

Would you like to let someone else do the cooking?

Come to one or all of our six lunches at the Elks Club.

We have a new chef and new menus and you’ll be sorry if you miss it! Here is the Sept 13 menu:

Cheese, Fruit & Cracker Tray at the bar Lasagna, Spinach dish, Tossed Salad Apple Crisp with ice cream
--

If you are vegetarian, gluten free, allergic to seafood,  
... Let us know your dietary restrictions and we will tell you if we can accommodate you. We will certainly try.  
Call 703-923-9877 by noon Sept 7.

Still 15 bucks!

## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR AETNA MEDICARE ADVANTAGE !!!

The Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan provides two important annual health assessments for members. These assessments help ensure Aetna has information about the status of a member's health and health history in order to determine if additional resources and support may be needed. Aetna is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to conduct these assessments for their members.

Recently, Aetna Medicare Advantage members received a letter inviting them to participate in a Healthy Home Visit, also referred to as an in-home assessment.

Members may have also received a call from Advance Health—Aetna's partner vendor for this program. If a members agrees to participate in the Healthy Home Visit, a licensed practitioner (typically a nurse practitioner) will visit the member's home. The practitioner will review the member's health history, check vitals, complete a medication review/reconciliation, and perform a safety check of the member's home. This visit is intended to supplement — but not replace a member's relationship with their primary care provider (PCP). If the member has told Aetna who their PCP is, the PCP will receive a summary of the visit.

The Healthy Home Visit is, in addition to the Health Risk Assessment, conducted earlier this year. Both assessments are conducted annually, and members will be contacted again the early 2019 to participate in the Health Risk Assessment.

## OCTOBER 15, 2018 SAVE THE DATE! OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS!

It's never too early to begin thinking about your health plan options for 2019! Each year, FCPS provides a window of opportunity to review your medical and/or dental elections, update your plan selections, and make decisions about what might be the best option for your unique situation. This year, Open Enrollment will run from **October 15 through November 9, 2018. Elections made during Open Enrollment become effective January 1, 2019.**

**Be sure to check your mailbox for materials from FCPS later this fall!**

## NEW PRESIDENT OF VEA-R ANNOUNCED!!

For the first time in its twenty—five year history, the Virginia Education Association-Retired has chosen a northern Virginia resident as President. **Dennis Pfennig**, twice former president of Fairfax County Retired Educators, was elected in January and took office on August 1, 2018. His two year term goes to July 31, 2020. At the same time, he will continue to serve as FCRE's Secretary.

In addition to Pfennig, the VEA-Retired Council in 2018 will have on it three other FCRE members: **Kathy Davis, Marlene Parker, and Cheryl Perry.**

These four hope to bring to the near 5000 member statewide organization a fresh perspective on pressing issues affecting both retirees and public education in the Commonwealth.

Congratulations to these great members of Fairfax County Retired Educators! We wish them the best in their future roles!

Huzzah!



# DO YOU REMEMBER THIS ARTICLE FROM FOUR YEARS AGO??

by  
Barbara Allen

## Do You Remember This Article from Four Years Ago?\*

I didn't, so I decided to read it and update to 2018. What is the GRT, Government Relations Team? The G.R.T. is for everybody. It is a group of educators, in our case, retired educators, who are interested in looking out for our profession, our colleagues and our "not yet retired educators." All members of the GRT at one point or another came to their first meeting. They may not have had any idea what was going on, and perhaps were unfamiliar with the issues, but if they came to the next meeting they learned a little more. And soon, they were part of a group who was ready to meet our legislators. When they met with those elected officials, the legislators listen, because they know that we are aware of the issues, the impact of those issues on our members, AND that there are a lot of us.....AND WE VOTE!

If you are newly retired, or have been retired for five years, or even more, come to one of the GRT meetings and see what you can find out about issues that affect you, your monthly income, your health benefits, and all aspects of education in the Commonwealth. One of the annual events is the Lobby Day in Richmond. Last year we met with newly elected Gov. Ralph Northam. That was a surprise to most participants and was very exciting. It's fun, it's free and bus transportation is provided with no hassles about parking.

The Government Relations Team is also in contact with the Fairfax County School Board. In the year 2019, all members of the FCPS Board of Education will be up for re-election and we will be watching very carefully to see who are those school board members we would like to vote for in November, 2019.

Starting this fall, 2018, the Government Relations Team will be meeting every month tentatively on Thursdays:

September 6, 10:00 at the FEA office in Fairfax

October 18 10:00 at the FEA "

The other dates to be determined.

We will be addressing the following issues:

- Development of the Position Statement that will address our most important retiree issues for the 2019 General Assembly Session
- Determine lobbying schedule with legislators (lunch and/or breakfast)
- Begin plans for Lobby Day in Richmond on January 24, 2019 (tentative)

If you are interested in reading about, OR participating with the Government Relations Team, please send your email and telephone to Barbara Allen at [Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com) or call 703-978-0470 and I will be happy to add your name to our list. YOUR level of involvement will be up to you, but remember that our strength is in our number of well informed members!

\*The chartered bus is paid for jointly by the Fairfax Retired Educators and the Fairfax Education Association-Retired.

\*\* (I did. The Editor)



## WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We are so happy to welcome you to Fairfax County Retired Educators!.

This organization has been around in Fairfax County in one form or another since the late 1960s and one or two name changes! We offer many activities for our members from book groups, bridge groups, film group, political activity, six luncheons with programs, a wonderful scholarship program. And we have a magnificent travel program to over 170 places in the world. We also are alert to protecting our health benefits and our ERFC and VRS pension funds. We also are still very much concerned with our colleagues still employed and to protecting their benefits, too. We publish nine issues of this newsletter a year (which you can receive by snail mail or receive digitally—just let us know!). We are not affiliated with any national or state organizations, and we are supported by our dues.

And here are our new members:



Judy Avalos  
Joan L. Black  
Anthony Bombay  
Julia Clark  
Bridget Chapin  
Polly Dredge  
Janice Findley  
Jonnel Floyd  
Cary Hartzog  
Laura Hicks  
Kaminski, Gay T.  
Susan Murphy

Patricia Quigley  
Raylene Robinson  
Susan Schaffrath  
Holly Schmitz  
Nancy Scott  
Cathy Simmons  
Marsha Tarr  
Cheryl Temple  
Robin Terry  
Layne Turner  
Sherry Williams  
Lisa Wooditch

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

by  
Barbara Marshall, Director

### BOOK GROUPS

1. Annandale Book Group — Dottie Addison, coordinator  
Meets the 3rd Wednesdays at 12 noon at various locations. Call Dottie at 703-971-8479 for more information.
2. Fairfax City Group — Sue Williams, coordinator. Meets at 10:30 am on the 2nd Friday in the Barnes and Noble at Fair Lakes. Sue's contact information is [suewms@cox.net](mailto:suewms@cox.net).
3. Vienna Tuesday Book Group — Joey Graves, coordinator  
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center. Joey's contact information is [JoeyGraves1@gmail.com](mailto:JoeyGraves1@gmail.com)

### BRIDGE GROUPS

1. 2nd and 4th Monday Group — Meets 2nd and 4th Monday mornings at 9:45 am. Contact person is Barbara Marshall, 571-203-0375, or [bmarshall12@verizon.net](mailto:bmarshall12@verizon.net). This group meets at the Vienna American Legion. The Legion is located at 303 Center St., North Vienna, Va 22180.
2. Tuesday Morning Group — Coordinator is Sandy Smith. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 am in homes.
3. Fourth Tuesday Evening Group — Coordinators: Claudette Coffey and Joey Graves. Meets in homes at 7:00 pm.
4. 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday Bridge Group — Meets at David R. Pinn Community Center on Zion Road in Burke at 9:45—12:00. The contact people for this group are Bunny Monroe ([MissBunnyM@aol.com](mailto:MissBunnyM@aol.com)) and May Roy ([mroy99@verizon.net](mailto:mroy99@verizon.net)). This group has been meeting at the Legion for the summer but will be back at the Pinn Center on September 17.

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

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## TIME SENSITIVE!

### LUNCHEONS AND RESERVATION DATES: 2018-2019

1. September 13, make your reservation by September 7
2. October 11, make your reservation on October 5
3. December 13, make your reservation by December 7 2019
4. February 14, 2019

### SEPTEMBER 2018

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Springfield, VA 22150-0682

Email: [fcrc@fcrc.org](mailto:fcrc@fcrc.org)

Website: [www.fcrc.org](http://www.fcrc.org)

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Officers for 2018—2019 (July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019)

President.....Cathy Shelton

Vice President.....Eva Pappas

Secretary.....Dennis Pfennig

Treasurer.....Barbara Dent

Past President.....Billie Johnson

Parliamentarian.....Dennis Pfennig

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Communications.....Valerie Shapiro

Health Benefits.....John Dent

History and Records.....Linda Beuhring

Information and Publications—Billie Johnson

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Member Activities.....Barbara Marshall

Member Services Tours.....Doris Patteson

Parliamentarian.....Dennis Pfennig

Program Director.....Eva Pappas

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

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Office Manager.....Cathy Shelton

Remembrances.....TBA

50/50.....Anita Francis

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