



FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
703-923-9877 WWW.FCRE.ORG

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLI, Number 3

DECEMBER 2019

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The December FCRE Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**. We hope you have plans to attend. The luncheon entertainment will be music performed by a 26-stringed instrument orchestra comprised of Fairfax County students from West Springfield High School. Under the outstanding direction of their conductor, Ms. Jennifer Herrera, they have been recognized with Superior ratings at Virginia State Assessments and national competitions.

The West Springfield Orchestra Program consists of four outstanding string ensembles. Ms. Herrera's groups perform publicly throughout the year at various venues. Two of their more memorable



highlights have been performances at the White House and the Virginia Music Educators' Conference. They also performed during a summer tour of Scotland. Can you think of a better way to get into the holiday spirit than to hear and cheer for these young performers. They are anxious to perform and display their musical talents at the luncheon, and it is a program you will not want to miss. Ask your friends to join you for this luncheon and make your **reservation by December 6**.

Members are reminded that the luncheon cost to members is \$18.00 and the cost to non-members \$20.00. **If at all possible, it is requested that luncheon reservations be made by email at luncheon@fcre.org.**

Mark your calendars now for our future luncheons. The February luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, and the entertainment will be the Harmony Heritage Singers, a group of retired gentlemen who sing in the distinctive Barbershop style. The April luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2020, and a presentation will be given by Francis Gary Powers, Jr., son of Gary Powers, the pilot of the U-2 spy plane who was downed over the Soviet Union in 1960. Mr. Powers, Jr. will give the definitive account of one of the most important events of the Cold War based on personal files never before made available to the public. Plan to attend the luncheons where these fun and informative programs will be presented!

BOOK COLLECTION AT DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Again this year, FCRE is encouraging its members to bring a book or two or three to the December 11 luncheon to support **BOOKS ARE FOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN!** This organization is located at the **FOOD FOR OTHERS** food bank in Fairfax. The books are distributed to families who use the services of the food bank. Needed books include new or gently used board books, read-aloud picture books, easy readers, and chapter books through fourth grade reading level. Start collecting now and bring your books to the December 11 luncheon. **Help make kids happy!**



**DECEMBER 11, 2019
MEMBER LUNCHEON**

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

AGENDA:

- 11:00 AM —Social Hour and Cash Bar—meet and greet your friends!
- 11:30 AM —Lunch!
 - Turkey and all the trimmings!
 - Pumpkin Pie
- 12:15 PM —Program:
 - West Springfield Strings

******* INCLEMENT WEATHER *******

If Fairfax County Schools are closed, our FCRE activity is canceled. If there is a FCPS delayed opening, the FCRE activity will take place. We follow the school system's closing and late opening schedule.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by phone, mail or email no later than 12 noon on Friday, December 6, 2019!
Please call, mail, or email early!!!
BY MAIL—Mail your name, name (s) of guests, and check for \$18 for members; \$20 for guests.
Make your checks payable to FCRE, mail to:
FCRE Luncheon Reservations
P.O. Box 682
Springfield, Virginia, 22150-0682
OR CALL: 703-923-9877—Leave your name, phone number, and name of guest(s)
OR EMAIL to luncheon@fcree.org
Give your name, and your guest(s) if any.
Cost of Luncheon: \$18 for members
\$20 for each guest.
Unclaimed reservations will be billed.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to the FCRE Scholarship fund are always welcomed. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the form below and return it, along with your check, to the address given on the form.

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

[501 c3 Tax Deductible]

Make your check payable to **W. Harold Ford Foundation** in the following amount:

____\$5 ____\$10 ____\$15 ____\$20 ____ whatever you can

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Detach this form and mail with your check to:

FCRE Scholarship
PO Box 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

You will receive a receipt for your contribution. Thanks!

TRAVEL NEWS

The Collette 2020 trips with deposits due soon are:

- **Charming French Canada** -- July 17 - 26, 2020 (deposit deadline January 17, 2020)
- **Colorado Rockies** -- August 14 - 22, 2020 (deposit deadline January 27, 2020)
- **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta** -- October 7 - 12, 2020
- **Costa Rica a World of Nature** -- November 3 - 14, 2020

Can't decide which trip to take? Attend one of the Travel Seminars in January that will give you information about the summer trips. Stay for one or both presentations. Please RSVP to Trevor Major by calling 703-242-2204 or email at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com.

TRAVEL SEMINAR on Thursday January 9 at the FCRE office, 6708 Backlick Rd, Springfield.

2 PM – information about the Colorado Rockies 2:40 PM – information about French Canada

TRAVEL SEMINAR on Thursday, January 16 at the Shillelagh Office, 100 East St SE, Vienna.

2 PM – information about French Canada 2:40 PM – information about Colorado Rockies

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathy Shelton

The Holiday Season is here, and along with it comes the cold weather! The officers and Board of FCRE have had a busy year planning luncheons, getting the newsletter out to our members, and supporting the Government Relations Team as it plans for the next Lobby Day on January 30, 2020. We also meet with FCPS HR personnel and the FEA-R officers to ensure our retiree benefits are maintained.

We are appreciative of Apple Federal Credit Union for their continued support of our activities.

FCRE continues to need members to help in some important leadership roles. I am grateful that Connie Dineen has assumed editorship of the Advocate after Billie Johnson's retirement from that job. We still need a Treasurer and a President-Elect – should I ask Santa to bring us some volunteers for those positions? Barbara Dent, our former Treasurer, continues to help even though she has moved out of the area. If FCRE is to stay strong, we need new people to volunteer – you will be welcomed with open arms and lots of help!

On behalf of the officers and Board of FCRE, I want to wish all of you Happy Holidays filled with family, friends, and happy times!



COMING IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

Details about the Lobby Day Trip on January 30, 2020. If interested, please contact Barbara Allen at 703 - 978 - 0470 or by email at barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com. The next GRT meeting is January 9 at the FEA office.

Information about Shillelagh Day Trips for the spring.

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PO BOX 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming FCRE Luncheon Dates at the
Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax,
VA
2019 - 2020**

Wed., Dec. 11 -- reserve by Dec. 6
Wed., Feb. 12 -- reserve by Feb. 7
Thurs., Apr. 23 -- reserve by Apr. 17
Thurs., Jun. 11 -- reserve by Jun 5

**December 2019
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Change of address, letters, comments should
be sent to the FCRE address above
or emailed to: fcre@fcre.org
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* * * * *

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