

TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

Presidents' Message

It seems as though it was just Labor Day, yet here we are at the beginning of the holiday season. November brings us the Waterfowl Festival and a chance to celebrate the loveliness and character that is the Eastern Shore. We voted a short time ago. Hurricane season ends officially this month, good news especially to those of us who live in low-lying areas. Thanksgiving is synonymous with gatherings of family and community, at the table, in the kitchen or at a place of worship. Thanks to technology we can connect to family members that live a distance away. Or, we can go on trips to see them. (That's exciting, too!) We get out there and volunteer for community events and needs.

Then come the December holidays. These are a time of traditions and reflection. We become expert gift choosers and package wrappers (lots of tape and ribbon hide the mistakes!). We join in holiday songs no matter how well we sing, light candles and trim trees.

One thing we all should do is remember to prioritize. Not everything turns out the way we planned, but try not to get too stressed. If the mashed potatoes are lumpy, they'll get eaten anyway. No

one's perfect and that's okay. Try to relax and enjoy making memories.

Take time for each other – lunch, coffee, sharing a book or recipe. This can also be a time for quiet pleasures. Think about all the great people you have met during your career and maybe reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a long time.

While you are planning what to do, we have a suggestion. Please join us on December 6 at Latitude 38 in Oxford for the TCRSPA holiday luncheon. More information is in this newsletter, and thank you to the Social Committee members, Chic Harrison, Mary Reeser and Pat Chapman, for all the hard work they put into our gatherings.

As for December 31st, no matter where you are, who you are with and what hopes you have, we wish you a very Happy New Year!



Debbie Chance and Terry Callahan

This article has been reprinted from the December 2011 TCRSPA Newsletter in honor of Jane Barton's upcoming very special birthday. (Originally by Peggy Mundt)

Jane was born in December of 1918, so she will be turning 93 next month. She is up and going daily. She cooks, cleans house, shops, and does all of the things she has always done. That, in itself, is amazing. She likes to go to lunch with friends and keeps her memberships in good standing with the organizations she has joined. Her two favorite activities, tennis and singing, she has had to give up. Best of all, however, that sharp, active mind keeps an eye and ear on activities here and around the world.

Jane grew up in New Brunswick, NJ. She had one sister. The girls were close and throughout life they did many things together. Jane's father was the superintendent of construction of the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Jane and her sister would meet him at his office and go to the newest Broadway shows.

Jane attended Rider College in NJ. After graduating she took a position teaching in Netcong, NJ, a town in the foothills of the mountains. After four years, she felt she needed some experience as a secretary to teach her subject, so she got a job with Johnson & Johnson as secretary to the vice-president.

In 1945, she married Ken Barton. They had known each other since the age of four. (This year they celebrated their 66th anniversary.) She set up housekeeping on Nantucket, an island off the Massachusetts coast. The U.S. entered WWII and Ken was drafted. He entered the Coast Guard. After five European invasions, he was sent home for a rest. When his tour of duty was over, Ken entered Springfield College. Jane took a position at Holyoke Business College. Their first child, Kenny, was born in Springfield.

After graduation, Ken began his "Y" career in Torrington, Connecticut. Jane found a teaching position at Wilby High School. Their second child, Jim, was born in Torrington. They next moved to Waterbury. Three years later, Ken was hired to build a YMCA in Easton, MD. They moved to the Eastern Shore in 1963.

Art Higginbottom was then president of the YMCA, trying to get a "Y" built here in Easton. He told Jane that he had a job for her in St. Michaels, but she told him she didn't drive. He mentioned this at SMHS and the secretary said, "No problem, Peggy will bring her." And I'm still bringing her to this day!

So Jane became our Business Ed department at SMHS. She taught typing (I can still hear her class typing in rhythm to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"), shorthand and "Office Practice" for 23 years. Since businesses used the old heavy calculators with a roll of paper, dictaphones and mimeograph machines, she had to know those pieces of equipment inside out.

Jane helped to establish Alpha Delta Kappa, the honorary sorority for women educators in Talbot County. The state organization awarded her their Spellman Award for her activity in the community.

Jane loves to help at her church. When asked, she happily cooked for church events, made sandwiches for the homeless and hungry, and knitted about a dozen sweaters each year for the church fundraiser. Every year she also crafted 200 favors for the place settings at the annual church dinner. Her reason for doing all of this, "It keeps me busy." The truth is, she loves to "do" for the church and for other people.

This time of year Jane and Ken headed to Florida for the winter months. Jane and her family visited her father in New Smyrna Beach often, as did her sister. Upon retiring, they all knew where they wanted to spend the cold months!

Happy 100th Birthday, Jane, from all of us at TCRSPA!!



News from Debbie Chance ~

The Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association held its annual Fall Luncheon at Chesapeake College on Tuesday, Oct. 30. Fifty members and guests attended the first of four annual luncheon meetings. Six newly retired members were welcomed by the group, and two emeritus members (over the age of 90) were applauded. Mrs. Diane Thomas, music teacher at Easton Elementary (Moton), received the Fine Arts award from Liz Wildasin. Guest speakers included Debbie Urry, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore Higher Education Center (ESHEC), and Sue Park, Satellite Coordinator for Salisbury University at ESHEC, who spoke to the group about the many Bachelor's and Master's programs being offered at ESHEC. In addition, Wanda Twigg, Executive Director of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, shared the latest state news affecting retired educators. A delicious lunch and great fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

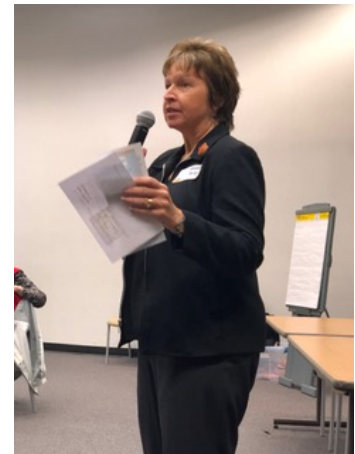


Pictured above, left to right, Peggy Ford (Membership Chairperson), and new members Jerry Seiler, June Melchior, Janelle Walker, Eunice Roberts, Angela Brown, and Sharon Corkran

Liz Wildasin presents the Fine Arts award to Diane Thomas, music teacher at Easton Elementary (Dobson) See article on following page.



Left - Debbie Urry & Sue Park from Chesapeake College at our luncheon.



Right - Wanda Twigg, Executive Director of MRSPA

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Members of the Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association are strong supporters of the CarePacks program. Pictured here are Susie Pratt and TCRSPA members Peggy Ford and Jean Startt who helped prepare items for packing.

CarePacks is a weekend food program aimed at preventing hunger among Talbot County's most economically vulnerable students. They serve students at ALL Talbot County elementary schools.

Their goal, through a partnership with Talbot County Public Schools and the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, is to provide every eligible student with a backpack filled with healthy, easily accessible meals and snacks every Friday afternoon so that when students return to school on Mondays, they are well-nourished and ready to learn.

CarePack's hope is for students to better be able to focus on academic success because they are no longer distracted by hunger or by concerns about where their next meal is coming from.

TCRSPA PERFORMING ARTS AWARD



TCRSPA's 2018-2019 Performing Arts Award was presented at the Fall Luncheon held at Chesapeake College. Receiving the award was Diane Thomas, who is now in her 27th year of teaching general music. She has taught at St. Michaels, Tilghman and now Easton Elementary. Prior to that she taught two years of band in West Virginia. She received her Bachelors' degree in Music and Education from Morehead State University in Kentucky and her Master of Fine Arts in Pittsburgh at Carnegie-Melon University. She plays flute and has performed with several orchestras including the Lexington Philharmonic and the Mid-Atlantic Symphony. She also plays flute for churches, weddings, funerals, parties and other special occasions. Diane lives in St. Michaels with her husband William, daughter Zoe (in college) and faithful pups, Bella and Bandit.

Community Service Committee

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Care Packs. The items were delivered and greatly appreciated. Thanks go out to Peggy Ford and others who assisted with delivering the items during our absence.

At our December luncheon, we will be collecting new and gently used children's books for "Little Free Libraries". Little Free Libraries were started in Talbot County by Theresa Ward, a TCPS employee, in memory of her daughter. Little Free Libraries can be found in fifty states and seventy countries. These libraries allow access to books 24 hours - 7 days a week. These libraries are small, free standing structures that hold books. Currently there are two Little Free Libraries in our community with more planned.

Please call us with any questions.

Thanks,

Bennie Milton 410-476-3734 Doris Roach 410-822-3563

American Education Week - Past and Present

Twenty-five percent of the World War I draftees were illiterate and nine percent were physically unfit. In 1919, representatives of the National Education Association and the American Legion met to try to come up with ways to generate support for public education.

Both organizations passed resolutions at their conventions to “raise public awareness of the importance of education.” A call for a nationally designated week once a year to spotlight education came from the NEA Representative Assembly in 1921. The resolution advocated for “An educational week... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs.”

The week of December 4-10, 1921 was the first American Education Week. In 1922 the U.S. Department of Education became a co-sponsor and in 1938 the PTA became one. (A more inclusive list can be found at nea.org.)

American Education Week is the week before Thanksgiving annually. This year it is the week of November 12-16. Monday is Kickoff Day, Tuesday is Parents Day, Wednesday is Education Support Professionals Day, Thursday is Educator for a Day (community leaders invited to become teachers and experience the classroom), and Friday is Substitute Educators Day. (**What about teachers? National Teacher Appreciation Week will be May 6-10, 2019.**) (Article information from nea.org)

READERS WANTED! Easton Elementary School – Dobson would like to have volunteers come in and read to the students during American Education Week, November 12-16. If you are interested, please call 410-822-0550 to register.

Update

At the Fall Luncheon, the general membership present passed both the budget for the current meeting year and the by-laws amendment (Article III, Section 1 h. Co-presidents may be elected. In the event of co-presidents, the vice-president position may be left open as one co-president may preside in the absence of the other.)

TCRSPA Holiday Luncheon

Date: **Thursday, December 6, 2018**

Place: **Latitude 38 Bistro and Spirits, 26342 Oxford Road, Oxford, Maryland**

Time: **11:30 a.m. Lunch served at 12 noon.**

Cost: **\$18.00**

** Directions: From the light at Easton Bypass take Oxford Rd (Rt 333) toward Oxford. Latitude 38 is on the right, about 8 miles. If you reach the Fire Department on the left, you have gone too far. Parking is limited, give friends a ride!

Let us know if you need a ride from the Easton Fire Dept, leaving at 11:00

Menu Selections:

Cheese and Fruit Tray Coffee, Tea and Soft Drinks included, pick up in bar area. Cash bar also available.

Entree #1 Slow Roasted Prime Rib, served medium with Au jus

Entree #2 Brown Sugar Roasted Pork Loin, with sweet sautéed apples

Entree #3 Cranberry Balsamic Roasted Chicken Breast

*All entrees served with fresh seasonal vegetables, choice of mashed potatoes or mashed sweet potatoes, and bread.

Dessert:

Warmed Golden Raisin Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce or Fresh Fruit with Whipped Cream

The Holiday luncheon is always well attended, so to avoid a line at check-in, we would appreciate payment at time of reservation. Thank you!

There will be a Holiday Basket raffle to benefit the Brighter Christmas Fund (3 tickets for \$5 or \$2 each), a 50/50 raffle, Door Prizes and the donation for the Martha Greene Scholarship available.

Please remember your Community Service donations of canned goods for the Neighborhood Service Center

Mailed reservations (preferred option) or calls should be received by Tuesday, Nov. 27

Mary Reeser 358 St. Aubins Terrace, Easton, Maryland 21601, 410-822-4410

Chic Harrison 29300 Will Street, Easton, Maryland 21601, 410-822-1209

Pat Chapman 802 Chapel Farm Drive, Easton, Maryland 21601, 443-786-8617

Mailed reservation form - next page

**Reservation form for TCRSPA Holiday Luncheon on
December 6th**

Return by Nov. 27, 2018

_____ Entree #1 Slow Roasted Prime Rib (\$18.00 payment enclosed)

_____ Entree #2 Brown Sugar Roasted Pork Loin (\$18.00 payment enclosed)

_____ Entree #3 Cranberry Balsamic Roasted Chicken Breast (\$18.00 payment enclosed)

Potato Choice (for all entrees): _____ Mashed White Potatoes **or** _____ Mashed Sweet Potatoes

Dessert: _____ Bread Pudding _____ Fresh Fruit (Please choose one)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Ride Needed: Y or N

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**Luncheons for
2018-2019**

Thursday, December 6
Latitude 38 Restaurant
Oxford

Tuesday, March 26
Chef Cook Class @ EHS

Thursday, June 6
Chesapeake Landing

**Executive Board
Meeting Dates**

Feb. 4, 2019

April 8, 2019

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

**All TCRSPA members are
invited to attend.**

Life after Retirement: Sue Brannegan

Submitted by Dee Rein



Suzanne Brannegan, like many women of the current retiree generation, considered her career options to be nursing and teaching. At the University of Maryland she found she liked the education courses, and, fortunately for the many students whose lives she has touched, she became a special education teacher. At Loyola University Maryland Sue furthered her education and became a counselor. She says in counseling she, “found her calling.” Stints at Easton Elementary, Cordova Elementary, Easton Middle School and, currently part time, at Tilghman Elementary have allowed her to work with many children and families. She has enjoyed providing these direct services. “Some kids face a rough shot at home,” Sue notes, “and counselors can help them cope with family issues as well as peer relations.” Sue especially admires Easton Elementary School’s effective peer mediation training which facilitates students helping each other solve problems. Career development is currently a Talbot County Public Schools focus as even the youngest students are encouraged to imagine post high school education and careers. Sue is still fully engaged in these supportive services one or two days a week at Tilghman Elementary School.

Just as families at school are important to Sue, her own family is a major focus in retirement. Her five children, three of whom live in San Francisco, have given Sue six grandchildren. Visiting an Annapolis grandchild and spending most of the summers in San Francisco allows Sue to help with the local as well as West Coast grandchildren, visiting parks, having picnics, and expanding their horizons with activities in the city. In retirement family is Sue’s top priority.

When one is busy working, raising children and getting a graduate degree, life can be very busy. In retirement Sue enjoys having, “time to breathe!” However, she likes having some planned activity each day. Now she has time to exercise at the YMCA three days a week and walk daily. She volunteers at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton as an escort one day a week and paces her commitments to balance her life.

Sue concluded that retirement is different for everyone depending on what is important to them. The job of retirement is to figure out the balance between the home front and volunteer activities. She cautions to start volunteering slowly, one day a week, and explore the possibilities. Organizations are eager to have volunteers, often asking for increased time commitments, but we need to know when to say, “No,” too. We’d all be wise to follow Sue Brannegan’s lead as she puts family first and balances other varied commitments for a satisfying retirement.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted by Doris Valliant

STAY SAFE THIS WINTER

The American Red Cross offers this advice to stay safe during the winter months. (1) Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Don't forget to put on gloves and a hat to help you prevent losing body heat when you're outside. (2) If you have pets, bring them indoors, or make sure they have enough shelter to keep warm, and make sure they can get to unfrozen water. (3) Remember this "three feet rule." If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable, such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs, at least three feet away. (4) Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed. Make sure the fireplace has a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs. (5) Protect your pipes from freezing; run water, even as little as a trickle will work. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Keep garage doors closed if you have water lines in the garage. (6) Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Although your heating bill may be higher, the repair bill to fix your frozen pipes will cost you much more. (7) Only use your kitchen stove and oven for cooking and not for heating your house. (8) If you have a generator, operate it from outside your home, and that includes no generators in your basement or garage. Don't hook up the generator to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to directly connect the equipment you want to power to the outlets on the generator.

BE A WISE SHOPPER ON BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Consumer Reports (CR) has been tracking Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals for years, and CR shares these tips to help you get the best deals and to keep your frustration and overspending to a minimum. Start early because Black Friday no longer means just that one special day. Black Friday has become a whole month of deals and savings, and online retailers regularly update prices throughout the event. To judge how good the actual sales really are, you'll need to track the deals leading up to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which now stretches into a week of online specials. Don't go shopping unprepared. Study the ads and check out websites such as bfads.net, bestblackfriday.com, dealnews.com, theblackfriday.com and blackfriday.gottadeal.com. Try Google Shopping, plus services like NexTag, PriceGrabber, Pricewatch and Shopzilla to compare prices. Make a budget and stick to it. Doorbuster specials are available in limited quantities and are designed to get you into the store. Once there, it's easy to get caught up in the buying frenzy.

FOLLOW THESE HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

The holidays mean great food and lots of leftovers, but they also can become a health hazard. Don't rinse that turkey or other raw meat before cooking, and use a thermometer to make sure they're cooked to a safe temperature. After your holiday meal, refrigerate those leftovers within two hours, and don't use them if they have been sitting in the fridge more than four days. Bring sauces, soups and gravies to a rolling boil when reheating. When storing turkey leftovers, cut them in small pieces so that they will chill quicker. Finally, this safety tip never expires: wash your hands frequently when handling food.

Sunshine Committee

submitted by Brenda Davidson

As I was thinking of what to write for this newsletter, I received a set of Christmas cards in the mail that I could purchase for a small donation from a charity - and I began to think about how the custom of sending Christmas cards came about. This custom was started in the UK in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. He was a senior civil servant who had helped to set up the new "Public Record Office" where he was an Assistant Keeper, and wondered how it could be used more by ordinary people. Cole and artist John Horsley designed the first card and sold them for 1 shilling. The card had 3 panels - the 2 outer panels showed people caring for the poor and the center panel was a family having Christmas dinner. About 1000 were printed and sold. Christmas cards first appeared in the USA in the late 1840's. In 1875, printer Louis Prang started mass producing cards so more people could afford to buy them. Then, in 1915, John Hallmark and his 2 brothers created Hallmark Cards. The first "personalized" card was sent in 1891 by Annie Oakley. She was in Scotland at the time and sent cards back to her family and friends in the USA featuring a photo of herself in a tartan plaid kilt. In the 1920's home made cards became popular and were often unusual shapes and had foil and ribbon on them. Writing the annual Christmas letter has been an American tradition since at least the 1950's. Today, sad to say that social media is starting to replace these traditional holiday greetings. Some say that it's no longer NECESSARY to send cards or letters to family and friends. What do you say? Here's hoping that you'll find as much pleasure in sending a holiday card or letter to your family and friends as you will in receiving one in your own mailbox. Merry Christmas everyone!

October - We remembered Doris Roach with a "Thinking of You" card this month. We also sent a BIG THANK YOU to the Early Childhood Development students at Chesapeake College, under their advisor Ms. Sarah Ross, for their very generous donation to our CarePacks project this month. Students from Salisbury University Elementary Education, under their advisor Dr. Elaine O'Neal, also donated to CarePacks this month. Again this year Mrs. Debbie Urry (Chick Harrison's daughter 😊) was our gracious hostess for our delicious luncheon at Chesapeake College - Thank You Debbie!

If you know of anyone who needs "A ray of sunshine" call
Brenda Davidson at 410-310-9051.

TCRSPA

c/o Terry Callahan

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Easton, MD 21601