MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIRES ASSOCIATION, INC.

WWW.MCPSRETIRES.ORG MCPSRA MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 4367 ROCKVILLE, MD 20849-4367

VOLUME 2008-09, ISSUE #2

DECEMBER 2008

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Joan Donovan-Projects Co-Chair

The MCPSRA *Toolkits, Books, and Backpacks Project* most assuredly has been on the "Road to Success" this past year and many may feel that we truly triumphed over a recessed national economy to reach total success with this past summer's project for the economically challenged Title I elementary summer school children. Keep in mind though that the road to success is always under construction and that "triumph" is just "umph "added to "try". Our task as an association is not only to advocate for the benefit and well-being of our members but also for the educational well-being of our county's school children whom we served for so many years during our careers as school personnel. Our commitment to children did not end the day we retired.

With the bleak outlook on today's economic climate it is truly challenging to conduct a fund-raising campaign for a project that will not come to fruition until next summer. But the road to success is paved one step at a time and with a little "umph" from each MCPSRA member we can triumph once again and reach even loftier heights than those achieved the past two years. If each of us would seriously contemplate the strain that the current state of our economy has placed on the needlest of our county residents and their children, I am confident that surely each of us could find in our budget enough money to sponsor at least one toolkit for \$10 to help a needy child. Some 65 members have already done so for a total of almost \$2600, and we are extremely grateful. But MCPSRA has nearly 2700 members. Just think what we could do if every member would donate just \$10! Not only could we be sure that all Title I kindergartners next summer would receive toolkits with all the school supplies that they need at home to support their learning at school, but we could provide books for the children in grades 1 – 5 and backpacks for homeless children.

Now and always the "Road to Success "for our project will be under construction as long as the needy children in our county require our help. We know these are tough times but someone once said, "If the going gets easy you may be going downhill." The only way we plan to move is UP! Please consider making a donation now as well as throughout the coming months as your budget will allow. You might want to consider contributing in someone's honor or memory as a truly meaningful gift for the Holidays. We will gladly send acknowledgements to those whom you wish to honor or remember in this way. All donations are **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.** Please complete the form included in this newsletter and mail it with your donation. Thank you so much for caring!





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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FRED EVANS

On behalf of the MCPSRA Board of Directors, we hope that each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends and that the coming holiday season brings you great comfort and joy. Based on the feedback that I received from participants, our first luncheon at the new venue, the *Golden Bull Grand Café*, was a great success. We had 110 members and guests enjoy the food, the camaraderie, and the spirited presentation of Mr. Christopher Orlando, MCPS Teacher of the Year. Mr. Orlando teaches mathematics at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and, based on his inspiring words, it is easy to see why he was selected for this honor. Our next luncheon will be on February 26, 2009. Let's double our attendance!! A *reservation form* is included in this newsletter.

Tuesday, November 4, 2008, will be recognized as monumental day in United States history with the election of Barack Obama. On January 20, 2009 he will be inaugurated as the 44th President of our nation! I am hopeful that President Obama will be able to pull the citizens together to resolve many difficult national and international issues which confront us. Locally, the MCPSRA recommended candidates for the MCPS Board of Education, Mr. Phil Kauffman and Ms. Laura Berthiaume won their seats. Mr. Christopher Barclay, who ran unopposed, will join four current members, and the student member to guide our school system. We wish them the best.

On October 23, 2008, Ms. Joan Donovan, co-chair of the nationally recognized *Toolkits, Books and Backpacks Project* was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Glen Burnie, Maryland. I was pleased to be in attendance, along with other MCPSRA board members, to honor her. Joan has been a tireless member of the MCPSRA Board of Directors as she is always willing to "step forward" whenever a job needs to be done. On behalf of our members, we congratulate Joan for this well-deserved honor.

At this writing, the economic crisis in the nation, the state and the county has worsened. The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and your MCPSRA Board of Directors will continue to monitor how Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland state legislators deal with the recent estimated state budget shortfall of **\$1.4 billion**. The proposal to shift the state funding for retirement costs to the individual counties remains a "hot topic", and we must oppose this short-sighted "solution" to the current budget crisis. MRSPA, in concert with the 24 state retiree associations, continues to lead the opposition to this misguided proposal. As I mentioned in my last two messages to you, contact your state representatives and voice your opposition. (Toll-free 1 800-492-7122 or Email through the General Assembly web site http:// mlis.state.md.us). Ms. Jane Hardy, legislative chairperson, and Ms. LeeAnn Kave, political action chairperson, continue to lead us in this effort.

I am issuing another urgent call for a newsletter editor! If you, or anyone you know, would like to step forward and take on this important task, please contact me as soon as possible. Your help will be appreciated. Finally, your next **assignment** as a MCPSRA member is to **recruit a new member** by the next newsletter in February!!!!



MEMBERSHIP ALERT

Betsy Doyle, MRSPA Membership Chair

Believe: Members Make the Difference

This is the slogan for the coming year for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). MRSPA is the state "watchdog" of our pension and retirement funds as well as our health-care coverage. It is up to all of us to help recruit new members...the more members we have the more attention and support we have in Annapolis. The goal for MRSPA is to have 15,000 members by March 1, 2009. This means a 7% gain for each local. For MCPSRA this means at least 189 new members. Where do we get these new members? We get them from you, our retirees, of course!! I, as chairperson of the state membership committee, challenge all of you to recruit and to sign up just one (1) new member. Please talk to all your retiree friends and encourage them to sign up if they are not already members.

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!

City	М				MRSP
City State Zip + 4 Email	Name	Soc. Se	c. #	Birthd	ate
City	Address			Telephone	
Please sign authorization for dues deduction (see below) or make check payable to MCPSRA. Mail to: MCPSRA Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 I Local Dues 10.00 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 I Total \$35.00 I hereby authorize the Retirement and Pension System of the State of Maryland to deduct annual membership dues for the MRS and the MCPSRA from one of my retirement checks each membership year. I understand that my social security number is required if I wish to become a dues deduction member. SSN This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personn Association. Signature Date MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: MCPS Educational Foundation, with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521 NAME: ADDRESS:					
Mail to: MCPSRA Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 I hereby authorize the Retirement and Pension System of the State of Maryland to deduct annual membership dues for the MRS and the MCPSRA from one of my retirement checks each membership year. I understand that my social security number is required if I wish to become a dues deduction member. SSN This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personn Association. Signature Date MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: MCPS Educational Foundation, with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521 NAME: ADDRESS:					
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NAME:ADDRESS:					al Foundation, with
					
EWOUND INC. TO ADDITION TO LOUINITA DEL DEL NITE DOLLATION FILCUATURES. 3		toolkits at \$10 per kit	Donation enclose		
In honor of					

18th Annual MCPSRA Golf Outing

Richard C. Ahlberg - Golf Outing Coordinator

Dr. Bruce McKay - 2008 Winner

On Friday, October 10, 2008, 23 MCPSRA members and guests enjoyed a beautiful summer-like day at the Laytonsville Golf Course. Dr. Bruce McKay was the 18th annual event with his low gross score of 85. Joe Behrmann had the low net score of 73. Other prize winners included:

2nd Low Net – Eric Mills 3rd Low Net – Dick Ahlberg

Closest to the #3 hole – Bruce McKay

Closest to the #5 pin – Bill Garrett, (Guest of Bill Barrett)

Longest Drive – Harry Golding (New Retiree)

High Gross – Earl Jenkins (Guest of Dick Ahlberg)

Once again, the participants are indebted to Bruce McKay and Harvey Strine for most ably handling the score keeping chores. The following participants are thanked most gratefully for providing prizes and/or favors:

Bill Barrett

Tom Hickman and the Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit Union

Jack Hill and the Hendershot Financial Group

John Vaszko, our newly published author.

Dean Greer, Head Professional, Laytonsville Golf Course

Finally, the event raised \$400.00 for the MCPSRA Scholarship Fund which supports current MCPS personnel who are pursuing additional education and training.





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MCPSRA Luncheon - February 26, 2009

Please plan to attend future luncheons:

April 23, 2009 June 25, 2009



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Contact Ms. Dee Snyder (retired MCPS teacher) for available dates. 386-258-2186 dslovebird@earthlink.net

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For more information, contact **Mike Codori** at:

(301) 460-7951 or mikecodori@verizon.net

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Ruth Doak, Community Service Chair

What is Community Service and why does MCPSRA have something to say to us about it? Community Service is that portion of our waking hours in our retirement which we dedicate to being of service to others in our own community or around the world.

The first place you might think of is in the field you know best: YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL. In these days of large school populations and very busy teachers, what we have to give is much appreciated. Go to your closest elementary school and ask the principal where you can be of the most help. Lots of us have helped as reading tutors, particularly for youngsters who may hear their only English words all day during the hours they spend in school. Ohers of us who prefer working with older children find that our background makes us valuable in many fields. Math skills need so much reinforcement and sometimes teachers just run out of time, as we know.

There is a wonderful organized program in Montgomery County called INTERAGES which can help you find your niche. This past year Interages had 188 volunteers touching the lives of over 650 students through their Bridges program. This is a rewarding and fun mentoring program in which a student and a caring adult meet on a regular schedule throughout the school year. More mentors are needed at new school sites in 2008-09. This wonderful organization which recruits volunteers has many opportunities to suggest. Call Interages at 301-949-3551 to learn more about the organization or visit their website www.interagesmd.org.

If you do not live in Montgomery County or find it a convenient site for your volunteer activity, no doubt there is a comparable need wherever you live. Another program needing volunteers is MEALS ON WHEELS, a service which delivers two meals a day to homebound elderly or shut-in persons. There is always a need for drivers for this valuable outreach and most county agencies or churches could put you in touch with the local branch of the organization. There are seven numbers by neighborhood in the Montgomery County telephone directory for Meals On Wheels.

There is one more program I'd like to highlight for you. If you haven't heard about ELDERHOSTEL, you are certainly eligible to participate in this enthusiastic group of retirees interested in learning. A recent innovation of Elderhostel is their Service Learning Program, designed for active retirees who also value adventure. You can choose to travel to various parts of the world to (1) survey prehistoric Pueblo sites in the Four Corners of Colorado, (2) preserve lke & Mamie Eisenhower's farm at Gettysburg, (3) engage in dinosaur bone preservation in Wyoming, (4) teach conversational English in Hungary, (5) help with the preservation of an historic site in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. And all of this you do with other retirees who have a like interest. Many of you will find this enticing. Call Elderhostel at 1-800-454-5768 or go on line at www.Elderhostel.org. They offer nearly 8,000 programs in 90 countries and the Service With Learning opportunities are only a small part of their catalog; there are programs which are rewarding for people of all interests and abilities.

Read the Volunteer Opportunities column in your local newspaper or in our MCPSRA newsletters, search out places to offer your help, or try something completely new. For instance, consider becoming a docent at one of our many public or private museums. You will be rewarded many times over for what you do. Remember, volunteers serve without pay, not because what they do is without value but because it is priceless.

THE GEORGE B. THOMAS, SR. LEARNING ACADEMY, INC.

Get Involved as a Tutor!

Thinking about getting involved with students again? Would you again like to experience the joy when a child really "gets it" because of your guidance and support? Then the GBTLA is the place for you! The 2008–09 season is upon us, so please consider tutoring for the GBTLA this year. It is a great opportunity to work with a wonderful group of students.

Both lead tutors and volunteers are needed. Individuals with certification are eligible to serve as lead tutors and will receive a stipend of \$37 per hour. Those without certification can serve as volunteers.

All twelve center locations are in need of both lead tutors and volunteers:

- Montgomery Blair Center
- Albert Einstein Center
- Gaithersburg Center
- John F. Kennedy Center
- Northwest Center
- Magruder Center
- Paint Branch Center
- Rockville Center
- Sherwood Center
- Springbrook Center
- Watkins Mill Center
- Wheaton Center



We encourage you to visit any of the centers for a tour or to observe the sessions. Just call the GBTLA main office to let us know where you will be visiting so we can make sure the center director is available to welcome you.

Tutoring sessions are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. from October through May. If you are interested, please contact Michael Thomas, Executive Director, on 301.320.6545.



Save the Date!

It's never too early to plan for golf! The GBTLA 15th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009. The tournament is held in the morning, followed by a great barbeque lunch.

Save the date—it's a great event!

Retirement, a heck of a time to run out of money!

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- * Leave a legacy to your loved ones

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Tom Hendershot at



Tom Hendershot
President
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PARKING INFORMATION

Day trip parking information will be indicated in each trip description. Overnight trips will leave from Park & Ride lot on Norbeck Rd. & Georgia Ave.

YOUR TRAVEL INFORMATION

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SHARE IT, ALONG WITH SPECIFIC TRIP INFORMATION, WITH YOUR GUESTS.

- 1. We all travel at our own risk.
- **2**. There is always some walking involved as we travel. Read each itinerary carefully, keeping in mind your own capabilities.
- **3.** Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
- **4.** Trips are open to members, their families and friends (adults).
- **5.** Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the coach.
- **6.** About three to five days before a day trip, participants are called to remind them of the day and departure time of the trip. For overnight coach trips, about two weeks prior to the date of departure, a letter with up to date information, including parking details, and one baggage tag per person will be mailed to you.
- 7. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include name and date of trip on check...
- **8.** Send check with completed reservation form.
- **9.** Your reservation is definite upon receipt of deposit/full payment, whichever is required. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants needed by the deadline as published, your check will be returned to you. Feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
- 10. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
- 11. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
- **12.** Anyone interested in insurance for overnight trips should call Ellen at Eyre Tour and Travel at 301-854-6600, ext. 3252 or 410-442-1330, ext. 3252 or 1-800-321-3973, ext. 3252.
- 13. We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.

TRAVEL CO-CHAIRS

Frieda J. Price........ 301-926-2286 105 N. Summit Ave. #4, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

Mary Ann Davis..... 301-253-6256 23509 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Celebrate *Bella Italia* and the landscapes, music, culture and floral beauty of Italy, the prevailing theme of the 2009 Philadelphia Flower Show. Stroll through displays highlighting the majesty of Rome's formal style and gardens; enjoy scenes adapted from the beautiful Tuscan countryside as well as inspirational artwork of Florence. Strolling musicians, operatic presentations, regional food, and Italian fashion promise a memorable day in promise of spring!

9:00 a.m. Depart Norbeck Park & Ride Lot 12:00 noon Arrive Philadelphia Flower Show... afternoon & lunch on-your-own

5:00 p.m. Depart Philadelphia

8:00 p.m. Return to Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: Round-trip transportation, deluxe EYRE motorcoach; admission to Flower Show; taxes and tolls. Does NOT include gratuity for motorcoach operator.

Cost: \$74.00 per person Due date: January 23rd., 2009

Make check payable to **MCPSRA** and mail with completed registration form to:

Frieda J. Price 105 N. Summit Ave., #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877 301-926-2286

Annual Odyssey Luncheon Cruise Thursday, April 2, 2009



Join us as we enjoy good food, good service and good company while cruising down the beautiful Potomac on the ODYSSEY III, the only craft of its kind in the U. S. Outside decks and glass ceilings provide panoramic views of the cherry blossoms, historic national monuments, and the Washington skyline.

9:00 a.m. Departure – Norbeck Park & Ride (Memorials and city driving tour as time and

traffic permit prior to boarding ship)

11:00 a.m. Board ODYSSEY III

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Luncheon and Cruise

3:00 p.m. Approximate time of return

Includes: Round-trip transportation; Luncheon and Cruise on ODYSSEY, including tax and gratuity. (Does **not** include gratuity for coach operator.)

Cost: \$85.00 per person **Due:** February 24, 2009

Make check payable to: MCPSRA, and mail with completed Registration Form to:

Frieda Price 105 North Summit Avenue, #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877 301-926-2286

THE HOMESTEAD, Hot Springs, Virginia Sunday, April 26th to Tuesday, April 28th., 2009

Surrounded by the splendor of the Allegheny Mountains, this National Historic Landmark welcomed its first guests a decade before the American Revolution! It has been a cherished destination for generations of travelers and remains a true luxury resort. Come with us and enjoy

Southern hospitality, elegant accommodations, fine golf and spa facilities, and real pleasure time!

Sunday, April 26 9:00 a.m. Depart Norbeck Park & Ride Tuesday, April 28 6:00 p.m. Return Norbeck Park & Ride

Included: Deluxe EYRE motorcoach transportation; 2 nights accommodations at the HOMESTEAD; breakfast & dinner daily; access to Fitness Center and Indoor Mineral Pool; afternoon tea and nightly movies; luggage handling; resort service charge and state/local tax. Does NOT include gratuity for driver.

Cost: \$699.00 per person, double occupancy; \$939.00 single occupancy Credit card payment may be arranged through EYRE Tour & Travel. Please call 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 for Ellen, explaining you are an MCPSRA member.

Due dates: \$200.00 per person deposit by February 11, 2009

Balance due: March 13, 2009

Make checks payable to MCPSRA and mail with completed registration forms to:

Frieda J. Price

105 N. Summit Ave., #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

301-926-2286



		REGISTRATION FORM PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW Wednesday, March 4, 2009	
Name		Phone #	Member, MCPSRA? Yes No
Name		Phone #	If not, guest of
Name		Phone #	
Name		Phone #	
		Total \$ Amt Enclosed	
\ -·-·-		Annual ODYSSEY Luncheon Cruise Thursday, April 2, 2009	
Name		Phone #	Member, MCPSRA? Yes No
Name		Phone #	If not, guest of
Name		Phone #	
Name		Phone #	
		Total \$ Amt Enclosed	
<u>.</u>		The HOMESTEAD aday, April 28, 20	09
Name		Phone #	Member, MCPSRA? Yes No
Name		Phone #	If not, guest of
Name		Phone #	
Name		Phone #	
	Total # Reservations	Total \$ Amt Enclosed	

WHY WOMEN'S HISTORY?

"One great satisfaction in learning women's history is the thrill of engaging in a subversive activity. Even in today's market, important facts about the impact of women in social movements and most disciplines are largely ignored by masculinist historians who profess to write the "whole story." Such books often completely ignore specific women.



Knowing the lives of important women (gleaned from women and men historians devoted to equality) provides unlimited openings in daily conversations. If the subject turns to presidential candidates, for example, the women's history buff mildly asks, "Have you read about the professional and inspired campaign Belva Lockwood ran in 1884?" If the answer is "Yes," you have met a colleague and discussion is open. If the answer is, "No, what did She do?" you have an audience who is eager to learn. Either way you have hit gold.

Margaret Zierdt, retired Maryland teacher and Board member of the National Women's History Project

Read all about it in

Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement

by Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr.

Order from the National Women's History Project at www.nwhp.org
Or call (707) 636-2888



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The MCPSRA Board of Directors has agreed to accept advertising. Dimensions and per issue rates are as follows:

Business card	3.0" wide x 2.0" tall	\$35
Quarter page	3.5" wide x 4.75" tall	\$60
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" tall	\$110
Full page	7.5" wide x 10.0" tall	\$200

An ad cannot exceed the above dimensions and should be emailed to the Newsletter Editor as a WORD attachment or as camera ready copy via US mail. WORD formatting will be provided on request to the Newsletter Editor. If you need professional help in following these guidelines, it is available, pro-rated at \$85 per hour, at A.G. Fiorill Printing (www.fiorillprinting@aol.com or at 301-776-0585 or by FAX at 301-776-0592.

Deadlines for future Newsletters are as

January 8, 2009 for the February 2009 issue

Send advertising copy (email to fevans424@comcast.net; surface mail to Newsletter, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849-4367. Mail check payable to MCPSRA (in advance of publication) to Treasurer, P.O. Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849-4367.

WISHING HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS TO OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!



MCPSRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING*

Thursday, February 26, 2009

NEW LOCATION:*

GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFE

7 Dalamar Street

Gaithersburg, MD 20877 Telephone: 301-948-3666



Business Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon at 12:00 Noon

Program following the Luncheon

in the lot across the street

DIRECTIONS TO THE GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFÉ:

Take Exit #11 off I-270 onto Route 124E (Quince Orchard Rd. toward Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village)
Turn RIGHT onto Route 355 South (Frederick Avenue) and go approximately 0.6 miles
Turn RIGHT onto Dalamar Street
Restaurant is on the left, parking available to the left or right of the building as well as



MENU CHOICES:

Breast of Chicken	\$17.50
Broiled Salmon	\$20.00
English Prime Rib	\$20.00

MEAL ALSO INCLUDES:

Fresh Garden Salad
Red Skin Potatoes
Vegetable of the Day
Dessert
Choice of Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea





RESERVATION(S) FOR MCPSRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Golden Bull Grand Café

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12:00 Noon Program

			CIRCLE ENTREE CHOICE
Name:		Phone:	Chicken (\$17.50)
	(please print)		Salmon (\$20.00)
			Prime Rib (\$20.00)
Name:		Phone:	Chicken (\$17.50)
	(please print)		Salmon (\$20.00)
			Prime Rib (\$20:00)
Total Amou	unt Enclosed:		
YOUR RESE	RVATION FORM AND CHE	<u>CK MUST BE RECEIVED BY Feb</u>	oruary 20, 2009
Mail reserv	ation form and check (PA)	(ABLE TO MCPSRA) to:	

Mrs. Joan Donovan
13 Hilton Court

Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521

For information call: Joan Donovan 301-253-6099 or Jane Hardy 301-774-9494

MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting Thursday, February 26 2009

GOLDEN BULL GRAND CAFÉ

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12:00 noon Program

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in

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This is the December 2008 issue.





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