

# NEWSLETTER



Fall 2020

After the strangest spring and summer for over a century, the weather is not the main topic as is usual for my opening lines of the fall newsletter: pandemic changes are! This is your first newsletter edition since late January 2020 -- when everything shut down in mid-March due to Covid-19, so did your editor since we no longer had April and May programs to announce. Those of you with email have received multiple updates in the time since then, but the ones of you dependent on print publications have probably wondered when you'd ever get another.

Well, here it is, just in time to announce our **first couple of meetings for the fall** – but like life in general, for which it's hard to make long-range plans, we're not announcing plans for the whole year. We know that we're beginning our **49<sup>th</sup> year** under very different circumstances, and, like the schools, we're planning as we go! Since we don't expect to have in-person meetings this year and since setting up topics for a Zoom presentation is very different, at this point we're announcing only **September and November 2020**. **[No October field trip, no changes in our health care so no need for a Health Benefits forum.]**

Meanwhile, we didn't meet in April and May 2020 to elect and install new officers but the "old" ones had all agreed, anyway, to stay on another year, so this is our continuing slate:

## ARTA OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

PRESIDENT	Nancy King 703-978-8017	SECRETARY	Cathy Eckbreth 703-534-4402
VICE PRESIDENT	Lynne Lilly 703-536-2550	TREASURER	Randy McKnight 703-516-0401

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2020-2021

Budget	Randy McKnight	Program	Lynne Lilly
Membership	Michele Milden	Concerns/Health Issues	Cathy Eckbreth
Directory	Lynn Juhl	Parliamentarian	Cathy Eckbreth
Telephone Tree	Bonnie Fowler	Nominations	VACANT
Historian	VACANT	Hospitality	ARTA Members
Legislative	Jeanne Trabulsi	Scholarship	Cathy Eckbreth
Newsletter	Ellen Bartlett	Fundraising	Sandi Green
Publicity	ARTA Board	Registration/Nametags	Ellen Bartlett

### Fall 2020 Meeting Place: Your home!

#### Virtual on Zoom

In advance of each month's virtual program, you will receive the link via email.

### Usual Meeting Date/Time:

Second Wednesday of announced months  
12:30-2:00 p.m. presentation

**Join us online!! Invite a member without broadband or others.**

## SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS -- 2020

### SEPTEMBER 9, 2020: PAUL SINGH AND HAPPINESS 101

**Welcome to the first program of our 2020-2021 ARTA meetings!** Last year, in March 2019, we had a program presented by AARP volunteer **Paul Singh**, a delightful and charismatic speaker who told us about AARP's "Five Pillars of Brain Health." Everyone enjoyed Paul's presentation so much that we had scheduled him again this past spring, April 2020, for a wonderful program titled **HAPPINESS 101**, but as we all know, our spring meetings were abruptly cut short as the Covid-19 virus took over. Fortunately, Paul has graciously agreed to bring this program to us to start off our year. To introduce this program Paul asks, "If you had all the money in the world but were not happy, would you consider yourself successful? On the other hand, if you were OK with money, and you were really happy, would you consider yourself successful? Steve Jobs said, 'We educate our children to make money, we should educate them to be happy.' We never get a single class on happiness throughout our academic life."

But here we are. Did you know that there are habits you can create and things you can learn to increase your general satisfaction and happiness in life? You will also learn what all happy people have in common along with learning some key habits of happy people and how to make them a part of your lifestyle. **Sign on to learn some easy and definite ways to create happiness for yourself and others around you – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83567678797>. For those of you without internet, you can join by phone: +1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 835 6767 8797**

### NOVEMBER 11, 2020: CHARLIE CLARK, CELEBRATING ARLINGTON AT 100!

Some of you will remember that several years ago we had Charlie Clark, local columnist, present an ARTA program, and in 2020, to celebrate 100 years since Arlington received its own name in 1920, we will hear him speak again!

From the cover of his book *Arlington County Chronicles, 2014*:

**C**harlie Clark, for three decades a Washington-area journalist, has written the weekly "Our Man in Arlington" column since 2010. By day, he is a senior correspondent for Government Executive Media Group. He has been a writer and editor for the *Washington Post*, *National Journal*, Congressional Quarterly, Time-Life Books, Tax Analysts and education groups. He has spent two-thirds of his life in Arlington (with a hiatus for college and a taste of Alexandria). He lives in the East Falls Church neighborhood with his wife, Ellen, who's in charge of quality control. They have two grown daughters, Elizabeth and Susannah.



*Photo by Elizabeth McKenzie.*

#### NOTE:

Charlie graduated from Arlington's Yorktown High School and McGill University in Montreal. Join us for this program to commemorate the **centennial of Arlington's 1920's re-naming**. Sign on to learn about Arlington's previous name, its relationship to Alexandria, and other interesting lessons from history.

## FROM THE DESK OF ARTA'S PRESIDENT!

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been so far! Like you, I am trying to be safe and weather the pandemic storm and its emotional ups and downs. Thank you for the continuing confidence you have in me in and my fellow members of the ARTA leadership team. We met remotely in late June to develop the budget and plan a very different year of programs and events. I invite each of you with internet to mark your calendar NOW for **Wednesday, September 9** when we will kick off the year with a virtual presentation by Paul Singh, a favorite returning to share his program "Happiness 101." The Board and I thought that it would be a perfect topic to start the year! We will gather remotely at 12:30 p.m., so grab your lunch and join your fellow members, just as you would if we were gathering in person.

Thank you for your generous support of close to \$20,000 in donations to the **Future Educators Scholarship**, our newest scholarship administered by the Arlington Community Foundation (ACF). The investment powering earlier-established **Arlington Retired Teachers Scholarship** continues to closely maintain its original \$200,000 value. Both awards are for \$2,500 and are renewable for up to five years, so we awarded a total of \$10,000 to four awardees, two new and two continuing their studies. I am pleased to share that the first Future Educators Scholarship was awarded to Ella Robertson, a Yorktown graduate headed to JMU. The newest awardee of the Arlington Retired Teachers Association Scholarship is Dalba Cruz-Medina, a Wakefield graduate who will also attend JMU. She joins Paola Gonzalez, a junior at GMU and Bopha Bessire, a sophomore at McDaniel College.

Cathy Eckbreth and I received a thank you from each of our students. Dalba shared, "It means so much to receive this honor. I've wanted to be a teacher for the longest time and this scholarship is taking me a step closer to that dream." Ella has always dreamed of receiving an ACF scholarship and is "grateful to have been given the funds to ease the cost of attendance." Paola has appreciated my checking in with her and says that "Your continued support has motivated me to do my best and I wouldn't be here without your encouragement! I don't know what the next semester brings, given the current situation, but I will do my best!" Cathy and I were moved by the note from last year's recipient, Bopha. "I was born and adopted from Cambodia but am from Arlington, Virginia. I am currently a sophomore at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, studying early childhood education with a possible focus on special education." She is honored to have received the ARTA Scholarship and that it "will help make college more affordable for my family and will allow me to focus more on my studies and less on my financial concerns. I feel grateful to be from a community like Arlington that helps give students opportunities."

Blessed to be a part of the ARTA community,

~ **Nancy King, President**



## LOOKING BACK

**On February 12, 2020**, Dr. Juanita Patience Moss, herself a retired teacher, mesmerized her retired teacher audience with her oral and visual presentation for our February meeting. She has spent many years researching and writing numerous books about black soldiers in the Civil War, and her talk at this meeting was about her latest book, *Deeply Rooted in North Carolina*, about her great-grandfather and his brother who were slaves on a plantation near Edenton, N.C. when they absconded and went to the federal garrison at Fort Monroe, the only way at that time for blacks to be free. Not wanting to be traced, they didn't give the last name of their owner but created the name "Patience," not a word they knew how to spell, so there are various spellings of it in the papers that Dr. Moss has researched – most commonly "Patien" for her great-grandfather. At first the escaped slaves sought safety at the fort as workmen, but after Lincoln signed the

Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, they could enlist, and the brothers went into different units, never to see each other again. Both survived the conflict; since her ancestor's regiment was from Pennsylvania, he returned there with them after the war and settled there, marrying and having a family. He died before Juanita was born, but she well remembers her great-grandmother, who lived with them. The fascinating account of how she accidentally saw the name of the other brother on a Civil War Memorial and tried to find out information about him involved many hypotheses [natural to her as a former biology teacher] and modern technology, including a 23andMe DNA test that led her to a cousin, Joseph Lawrence, and a reunion with family she didn't know she had. She left out some crucial details that she said would be revealed in her book, and I think many of us bought it! ARTA's \$50 honorarium to Dr. Moss will go toward the monument [planned to be unveiled on April 4, 2020], at a cemetery in Edenton, NC, honoring the service of these two long ago ancestors as well as others buried in the African-American cemetery there.

Our **March 11, 2020**, meeting turned out to be the last in-person meeting we'll have for who knows how long – and even on that date, some were appropriately leery of coming out as only 20 of us attended. At that time, we hadn't really heard the term "social distancing" to even think about putting it into place, but within a few days, schools were closing and everything changed. We did enjoy a good meeting, though, on March 11, and the 20 brave souls there were all lucky, too, as we had 20 gift cards to raffle, and everyone got one! When we were drawing tickets, since most of us had bought multiples, some people were getting more than one of their numbers drawn but then declining to take a second card since they already had one, so it was decided that those not yet getting a card should come up and choose among the ones left. Share and share alike! [Melanie ended up picking the one I'd donated!] As usual, the luncheon food was plentiful and tasty, and our program, introduced by the **Honorable Karen Darnier** and presented by the **Honorable Mary Margaret Whipple**, was fascinating. She described the long process between the generating of the idea for a Virginia Women's Monument until its unveiling this past October 2019, a process still ongoing since not all of the statues have been completed. Quoting from the handout Mary Margaret gave us, "*Voices from the Garden* will acknowledge the genius and creativity of Virginia Woman and their presence and contributions to the Commonwealth. The monument is a metaphor for the many unrecognized voices that have been responsible for shaping our culture, country, and state for over 400 years. It is intended to be a thought-provoking and interactive experience that complements the more traditional heroic monuments on Capitol Square. *Voices from the Garden* is the first monument of its kind in the nation recognizing the full range of women's achievements. It takes the form of an oval-shaped garden that encompasses twelve bronze statues of significant women from the state, surrounding a glass pane etched with names of other Virginia women. The whole monument is meant to be interactive for the visitor, by walking among the statues, each a work of art, or by using a mobile app to learn more about these women's achievements and to hear their stories, in many cases through their own words. The twelve women selected to represent over 400 years of Virginia history reflect various spheres of influence and geographic areas of the state." Mary Margaret did not discuss each lady, though the handout listed all twelve. The only one from Northern Virginia was **Martha Dandridge Custis Washington (1731-1802)**: "While she was not referred to as First Lady, she was the first woman to hold the position, during George Washington's presidency, and will serve as the representative for the wives of all eight Virginia-born presidents." Most of the 12 were from the Richmond-Williamsburg-Henrico area, the latest in time being **Adele Goodman Clark (1882-1983)** from Richmond, an "active suffragist who became president of the League of Women Voters in 1921. Adel was instrumental in the establishment of the Virginia Art Commission. She is considered to be one of the founders of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts." While the 12 statues have been predetermined, the glass wall of other notable Virginia women can be added to over time – and nominations for inclusion there are still being accepted, as well as donations to fund the remainder of the project. Online donations: [www.virginiacapitol.gov](http://www.virginiacapitol.gov)

**ARTA BUDGET: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

Submitted by Randy McKnight

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2019-20</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2019-20</b>	<b>ADOPTED FOR 2020-21</b>
ARTA Dues	\$7,505.00	\$6,255.00	\$5,610.00
Luncheon	\$1,043.00	\$0	\$1,200.00
Scholarship Fund	\$21,475.00	\$15,252.91	\$500.00
VRTA State	\$2,180.00	\$1,780.00	\$1,580.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$32,203.00</b>	<b>\$23,287.91</b>	<b>\$8,890.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Church	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$0
Communications	\$0	\$0	\$1,000.00
Directory	\$2,200.00	\$2,183.60	\$2,200.00
Donations*	\$1,250.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,250.00
Hospitality	\$100.00	\$41.34	\$0
Luncheon	\$1,200.00	\$90.20	\$1,200.00
Membership	\$650.00	\$591.24	\$650.00
Newsletter	\$2,000.00	\$1,642.64	\$2,200.00
Programs	\$500.00	\$342.25	\$500.00
Scholarships**	\$20,000.00	\$15,735.00	\$500.00
Tax Prep	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
VRTA Conference	\$1,000.00	\$728.73	\$1,000.00
VRTA Dues	\$2,180.00	\$1,780.00	\$1,580.00
Miscellaneous	\$98.00	\$47.56	\$100.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$30,953.00</b>	<b>\$25,682.56</b>	<b>\$11,830.00</b>

\*The Board each year votes on “other educational donations,” which in the past have included donations made to 4-H Camp, STEM, the Outdoor Lab, the Marjorie Hughes Fund, and the Planetarium. \*\*The big difference in scholarship money is that the Arlington Community Foundation is now handling our scholarships for us [see article below from Cathy Eckbreth] and hence less will go through the ARTA budget.

**Note:** The above **2020-2021 budget** was presented and approved at the June 2020 Executive Board meeting, though some projections are based on estimates for this very different year.



### **FUTURE EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The response to the **Future Educators Scholarship Fund** now held by Arlington Community Foundation (ACF) has been wonderful. The fund is growing with each check. This past year, donations that were sent in for the ARTA Scholarship Fund along with Membership Renewal checks were transferred to the (ACF). As my letter to you in February 2020 explained, if you wish to donate to this separate fund, in the future please make checks payable to **Arlington Community Foundation** and write “**Future Educators Scholarship Fund**” in the memo line. Mail your check directly to **ACF at 818 N. Quincy Street, Suite 103, Arlington, VA 22203**. This fund is earning money while we wait to use it for scholarships. Thanks to all.

**Cathy Eckbreth, ARTA Scholarship Chair**

We extend our sympathy to friends and family in the loss of these dear ARTA members and APS associates:

**EDITH SYMES** of Ashburn, VA passed away peacefully on **February 16, 2020**. Beloved wife of the late Harold B. Symes, Jr., she was an accomplished artist, a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, and an art teacher for many years, both in the Arlington County school system and as an adjunct professor for graduate level courses at the University of Virginia, Northern Virginia Center, and George Washington University. She continued her interest in the arts into retirement with the Loudoun Sketch Club and the Ashby Ponds watercolor group. Edith and her husband Hal, who predeceased her a few years ago, were both APS art teachers, Hal at Wakefield, and Edith retiring from Taylor. They had moved to Ashby Pond before Hal died, and Edith continued to teach art there. Fellow resident Herb Ware wrote that he himself had been taking lessons from Edith, and that even while suffering with pancreatic cancer, she was doing some beautiful painting, which someone in the Hospice field said was not unusual for a patient in an “end of life” situation. She leaves behind a great legacy, and we send deepest sympathy to her family.

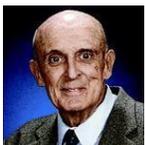
**MARY DABINETT WOOLNOUGH**, age 90, of Petoskey, Michigan died **May 20, 2020** in hospice care at Independence Village of Petoskey from complications of non-Covid related pneumonia.



Mary grew up in Michigan but followed the snow to Colorado College on a scholarship where she loved skiing and the sorority life of Theta. She completed her undergraduate degree in French at the University of Colorado and moved to Switzerland on a Rotary Scholarship to study at the University of Lausanne, receiving a masters in teaching. After teaching internationally and marrying an Army officer, she and her family moved to

Arlington, Virginia in 1964. She continued her role as mother and teacher, working as a reading specialist at **Oakridge Elementary school in Arlington, Virginia**. After losing her first husband, John Dabinett, in 1989, she later met and married another handsome Army officer, General Jim Woolnough. They had five glorious years traveling the world, socializing at the Army Navy Country Club and attending events at West Point. After Jim passed, she alternated time between Arlington and her beloved Petoskey to live part time with her sister Esther Winchester at the Cliffs of Bay Harbor. They enjoyed years of entertaining, cruising, and socializing with friends from all over the world. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery is planned for the winter of 2021.

**FRANCES M. KIBLER** died on **May 31, 2020**, in Williamsburg, VA, after a rather short battle with a rare cancer, angiosarcoma. Fran was an Arlington County educator and coach for 33 years, 18 years at Gunston Junior High School and 15 years at Wakefield High School. In addition to her teaching assignment at Wakefield, Fran coached the boys and girls Varsity Cross Country Team as well as the Girls Varsity Basketball Team and was the Department Chairman. She loved teaching, and after retirement she loved the community she had moved to, the Villas at Five Forks, and the community loved her.



**R. MAX SMITH (Age 88)** of Springfield, VA, died on **June 12, 2020**, beloved husband of Jean F. Smith for 60 years and loving father of Stephen E. Smith of Annandale, VA. A retired Yorktown High School Social Studies teacher, Max had been an ARTA member for many years, though without active participation.

**JOHN "JACK" JOSEPH SMITH, JR.**, age 78, of Alexandria, Virginia died peacefully at Virginia Hospital Center on **June 4, 2020**. In sending this announcement of Jack's death, our treasurer, Randy McKnight, said, "I know that Jack taught at Randolph. I knew him from his teaching at H-B Woodlawn ... and after retirement, I irregularly had lunch with him, the last time in early March. Over the years he battled many medical problems that would have crushed the spirit of a lesser person." Bob McNeal, former Randolph principal, said, "He was a great person, I can't say enough good things about him, I would have to list them all day. I don't believe I ever heard anyone say a bad thing about him. He loved his teaching job! He will be missed."

**PAMELA McCOY SPOFFORD "Pam"** passed away at home at the age of 79 on **Wednesday, July 29, 2020**, surrounded by family. A native of Beverly, MA, received her undergraduate degree in Education with a minor in English with honors from Northeastern University in Boston, and a master's degree in Special Education with honors from Marymount University in Arlington, VA. She and her husband, Dr. Walter O. Spofford, Jr., were married in 1961 and shared a rich and joyous life until his death in 1996. Pam was extremely devoted to her family, her community, the Episcopal Church, as well to her students as a special education teacher, earning numerous honors and accolades throughout her career, including Teacher of the Year.



#### **Other deaths:**

Former ARTA member **DR. TOM SCHELSTRATE**, W-L Social Studies retiree, passed away peacefully at his home in Arlington with family on **May 20, 2020**. Born in Davenport, Iowa, on May 24, 1945, Tom spent the last 40 years of his life as a resident of South Arlington. He worked 37 years for Arlington County Public Schools, the vast majority at Washington-Liberty (W-L) High School. W-L posted: "He was a cornerstone of the W-L High School community, playing a role at many levels over his decades of service ... His impact on those with whom he taught and worked will be longstanding."

Former ARTA member **DONALD STUART GARDINER** died **Wednesday, June 24, 2020** at home in Holden Beach, NC, following a brief illness. Overcoming a challenging childhood, he excelled in athletics in high school and received a football scholarship to Appalachian State where he continued to overachieve. Upon graduation from Appalachian State in 1962, he returned to Arlington County, VA. to teach and coach and became a certified referee for high school and NCAA football games, widely respected for his expert knowledge of all rules and regulations and his decorum. A long time teacher and coach in Arlington County schools, Donald retired to Brunswick County in 1991 to pursue his love of golf and the beach.



On **March 15, 2020**, **Michael Angelo Musto** of Arlington, VA, died surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of **ARTA member Laurine Musto** for 38 years, he spent 24 years with Arlington Public Schools as a 4th grade teacher at Randolph Elementary and 7th grade history teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

**Grace Avis**, a longtime resident of Arlington, Virginia, died on **Monday, March 23, 2020**. From 1958 to 1962, Grace taught English at Kenmore Junior High School in Arlington. After raising her children, Grace returned to teaching in Arlington where she taught English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at Taylor, Page, and Patrick Henry Elementary Schools until her retirement in 2001.

**Michael John Wollins**, former Science teacher at Jefferson, passed away at Virginia Hospital Center on **April 1**, seemingly as the result of a stroke.

On **Wednesday, April 8**, at 7:45 p.m., **Eleanor Dasenbrook's husband, Jim Halsey**, died at age 84, after suffering a sudden stroke. Sadly, his 88-year-old sister had died the previous day in Pennsylvania, a double sadness for the family. Due to the Governor's Stay at Home orders, a celebration of Jim's life will be planned for a later date.

**Al VanThournout**, former Social Studies teacher at Yorktown, **died April 24, 2020**, as a result of complications of recurring pneumonia. Although Albert retired from teaching at Yorktown more than fifteen years ago, he served until very recently as an adjunct History professor at Prince George's County Community College. He was hospitalized for pneumonia around this time last year and ended up back in the hospital again in early March.

On **May 11, 2020**, **APS retiree Pat Purcell** died of complications of Covid-19. Retired from McKinley after years of teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Pat lived at the Virginian but died in a hospital. Though she was not an ARTA member, her ARTA friends wanted people to know of her death. Thanks to Jane Stringfellow for calling me.

**Nancy Schneider Reiner, 67, died on July 11, 2020**, at Sibley Memorial Hospital after a three-month battle with leukemia, Nancy taught in elementary schools in Montgomery County, MD, Arlington County, VA and Hartland, MI for 42 years. She specialized in ESOL education and helped Arlington County develop its ESOL program in the late 1970s to meet the needs of families settling there during the post-Vietnam War years.

**Carol Barney**, a retired teacher from Carlin Springs Elementary, passed away **August 2, 2020**.

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Last spring, for the newsletter that didn't happen, our Legislative Chair Jeanne Trabulsi had submitted a lengthy report on all of the great accomplishments of the Virginia General Assembly regular session. Then, in a May legislative update, Jeanne wrote, "In the reconvened GA session held on April 22, the State of Emergency, due to COVID-19, wreaked havoc on educational legislation. Although the Governor funded the full re-benchmarking costs (which maintains only current school programs), **all new funding included in the March 12 budget was put on hold or "un-allotted" until additional revenue forecasts are available.** Well, what new funding was un-allotted? In addition to the minimum wage bill and the collective bargaining bill (both of which were delayed until May 2021), funding for a total of 23 initiatives were frozen."

Now we will see what will happen when the legislature reconvenes in special session again this month, beginning on August 18 with an uncertain end date. Meanwhile, this newsletter will go to the printer on August 18 so I can't give you answers! *The Washington Post* gave this overview: "The economic crisis brought on by the pandemic will force Democrats to retreat on the ambitious two-year, \$135 billion spending plan they passed and praised early this year as the most liberal in state history. They can use their power, however, to protect certain priorities from the budget ax. When it comes to the budget, House Democrats say **they will prioritize funding for higher education, telehealth and broadband access to support K-12 remote instruction.** They also want to extend eviction protections and provide support for elections ahead of November's presidential and congressional contests. House Democrats also introduced a package of bills related to the pandemic. . . Together with Gov. Ralph Northam (D), Democrats in the House and the Senate will have no trouble passing any agenda they can all agree on."

### \*\*\*\*\* BITS AND PIECES \*\*\*\*\*

**Martha Larson** (Drew PE) and her husband Bob sold their house in Alexandria in November 2019. They had been living in San Miguel de Allende, in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico since January, with Martha working hard in her daily Spanish classes and feeling right at home living in a culture steeped in music and dance. However, Martha recently wrote, "We returned to States in late March due to pandemic. We are currently renting a condo in downtown Denver. The search for a permanent residence in the States will resume ....mañana." Currently, email is the best way to reach her at [marthaelarson@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaelarson@yahoo.com).

**From Randy McKnight:** "Right before the pandemic hit last spring, Judy and I had recently completed trips to Ottawa, Canada, and various places in Florida. We were in Ottawa to see and support our son and his family. His wife was in London on business, and since the teachers unions were on strike, our son was out on the picket line. This trip confirmed our suspicion that Canadians have a different philosophy about cold weather. On February 1, we walked six blocks in 12° weather and stood in line—outside—to buy ice cream cones and celebrate 'Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.' Judy and I had coffee. The highlight of the Florida trip—after seeing family and friends—was driving a blazing red, Camaro SS with a 6.2-liter LT1 V-8 good for 455 hp and 455 lb-ft of torque. With 10 forward gears. Did I mention that it was a convertible? The downside was seeing the continued 'greening' of the Florida citrus crop. Fifteen years into this disease and Florida still does not have a handle on the problem."

**From Terry Bratt:** "I spent January and February in Tamarac, Florida, with my husband, Mike to escape the cold. We were sad though that we didn't miss any snowstorms while we were down south. A highlight of our Florida stay was a week-long trip to Key West in January. It was too cool for the beach for us but we had fun visiting historic homes that included the Audubon House and the Truman Winter White House. The Key West Customs House -- a beautiful building -- is now a local historical museum. They had an

interesting exhibit on writers, poets, and artists who live and work part or full time in Key West. I discovered that children's author Judy Blume is one of them and that she founded the non-profit Key West location of an independent bookstore, Books and Books. We heard that she is often at the bookstore working, so we went there in hopes of meeting her. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* was always a student favorite! Alas, Judy Blume wasn't there that afternoon but we enjoyed browsing the shelves. And while we were in Key West we ate delicious dinners at wonderful seafood restaurants. All in all, it was worth the four drive, one-way from Tamarac!"

**From Pat Scherago:** "Now that trips are not possible, Bob & I have taken to enjoying the trips we've taken via the YouTubes Bob has prepared. We have traveled many places over the years and perhaps others might enjoy them -- from a safe distance. Keep safe & stay well." Pat Scherago  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVHhVmKMYIwzv\\_oHVudjP-QzyaRPVvIgh](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVHhVmKMYIwzv_oHVudjP-QzyaRPVvIgh)

**From Pam Juhl:** "I learned only a few months ago that **Gutenberg.org** has many hundreds of books in the public domain that can be shared (downloaded) for free. That's where I found O. Henry's *The Four Million* (collection of short stories) that is our selection for this month's book club. Lots to read! Very helpful with the libraries closed and limits to borrowing ebooks.

Member **Virginia Moss** was at Powhatan Nursing Home for rehab before the pandemic struck – and she's still there! I think it would brighten her days to receive cards from her ARTA friends: **Powhatan Nursing Home is 2100 Powhatan St., Falls Church, VA 22043.**

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES AND REMINDERS

**Membership renewal forms for 2020-21** were mailed out on **August 11** and each member should have received one. Even for those who have paid in advance or become ARTA Life Members, we sent a form so that any updates in address or directory information would be sent back to us. Wrote in only needed changes, and return forms promptly. Note that the deadline for return is **October 31** if you want to remain a member and be in the 2021 directory.

**Remember the upcoming 2020 November election!** Wherever you live, make sure you're registered to vote and do so, whether by absentee in person, by mail, or at the polls.

**Our president, Nancy King,** requests ARTA members who learn of a member's **death** to please immediately notify **her** at **703-978-8017** so that we can call or email our members of pertinent details/arrangements. Also notify **Cathy Eckbreth**, our "Concerns" chair, of any occasion for which she should send a card. Call her at **703-534-4402** or e-mail her at [cwe5409@verizon.net](mailto:cwe5409@verizon.net). Happy occasions warrant cards, too

**From your editor:** At this point I am not sure when the next newsletter will be, but remember to send any interesting information or tidbits this fall so that I will have them to go into the next issue. **Send to:** Ellen S. Bartlett, 908 North Daniel Street, Arlington, VA 22201-1930, **call me at 703 524-3312, or email me at [ellenbartlett@verizon.net](mailto:ellenbartlett@verizon.net)**

**From Eric Christenson in a note to Nancy:** You may know of my little project, writing letters to my grandkids—100 a year. That's a little excessive, but as a retired English teacher and a sometime writer, I can't help it. If my grandfathers had written letters or kept a diary during the Spanish 1918-1920 flu, that would have been great. But they didn't. I think my grandkids and their kids—at least some of them—will really appreciate the letters I write as they look back at a pivotal and dangerous time in history. During this epidemic, I focus one letter on editorials, another on data, another on political issues, another on predictions, another on our experiences and thoughts, and so on. Please pass this recommendation on to my former colleagues as something interesting to do during the stay-at-home order. All they need is a laptop and a printer! ~ Eric