

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

DECEMBER

- 1 **State Dues and Membership Forms to NAFCE**
- 5 10:00 AM MDAFCE Board Meeting, Montgomery County Extension Office
- 31 **County's Annual reports due Vice President for Program; County Presidents' Reports due to President; Membership Appreciation Award due Vice President for Program**

JANUARY

- 9 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel County Extension Office
- 31 End of County 2011 Character Counts!sm Essay and Artwork Contest

FEBRUARY

All Month

Birthday Month, Collect (1 cent for each year of your age or give a dollar so no one will know your age) & send to State FCE Treasurer

- 1 **LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING** deadline for items to Editor
- 6 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting, Anne Arundel County Extension Office
- 20 Send County Character Counts!sm Essay and Artwork Contest winners to State President

MARCH

All Month

Women's History Month

- 1 **Deadline for Heart of FCE, Spirit of FCL** entries due to State President
- 5 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting Anne Arundel County Extension Office

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Plan Now to Attend the Maryland FCE Regional Conferences in October!

Your next newsletter will have detailed information.

Character Counts!sm Contest

Send your Character Counts!sm Contest winning entry to Martha Moser, MDFCE President by February 20, 2011.

MDFCE Web Site is www.mdafce.org

Send newsletters, calendars and information to Libby Wade at dunade@aol.com.

Newsletter Deadline:

February 1

Send all articles, Bulletin Board items, address changes and trivia for the newsletter to:

Jean Purich, 15500 Gallaudet Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20905-4196 or email to jcpurich@cs.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a wonderful magical state conference we had! Thank you Frederick County FCE and the State Board of Directors and Committees for all your hard work coordinating an informative, educational, and fun time. With programs about feet, rescuing greyhounds, Made in America, FCE history, Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones, and green cleaners, the magic of learning is improving our lives. The reports and business of FCE gave everyone new ideas and service challenges. The light exercise, an earring craft, and the basket sales were quite successful. I am enjoying the basket I won from Carroll County very much. And finally the entertainment at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre was fantastic. Yes, the learning, the fellowship, and the service at our conference were magic.

The holiday season is now in full swing. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with many things for which to be thankful. I am grateful that I have this opportunity to be your FCE president and serve Maryland FCE members. Christmas will soon be here with all its excitement and blessings. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May your holiday season be filled with joy, special moments and FCE magic.

Martha C. Moser, President
mcatmoser@aol.com

301-371-6132

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM

Your FCE Board was very pleased with the 2011 Semi-annual Fall Conference held in October in Frederick, Md. The programs were very well received. The most popular were “Made In America” and “Be Nice To Your Feet”. We hope you will use these programs in your clubs and counties.

We are trying to help our members get their FCL Trainer’s certificates. We included a program called “Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones”. Our attendees received a one-hour Group Process certificate. If you would let us know what

categories you still need we will try to incorporate those topics in our programs.

It was an excellent conference. We wish more of you would attend these meetings. They provide an excellent learning and social experience.

A Christmas Wish for You
May all the days of all the years
That God may have in store
Be filled with joy and peace
To bless you more and more
May the happiness of Christmas
Be in your heart to stay
And to brighten all your moments
Long after Christmas day. (Virginia Luers)

Evelyn M. Ziegler, Vice President for Program
ziegler@comcast.net 410-465-3587

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

With the Maryland Assembly not due to meet again until January, 2012, there isn’t much to talk about new laws at present. With the possibility of new leaders, many ideas may be held back to see what new proposal may come up in the political campaigns. Any laws that didn’t get passed in the 2011 Assembly will have to be presented again with new supporters.

The laws limiting the sale of violent videos to minors being declared unconstitutional by a California judge will have us rethinking what law will cover the same topic in another way. Also there is concern about the lack of limitations for inappropriate “apps” available to children.

Federal officials said they would join “Mothers Against Drunk Drivers” in a campaign to raise awareness of the danger of drugs on drivers. This would include prescription drugs as well as illegal drugs.

In the meantime, issues about jobs makes us think about all the jobs that have gone overseas and consider supporting those companies still producing products with “Made in America” labels.

Marilyn Simonds, VP for Public Policy
mjsimonds@verizon.net 301-871-1609

TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the treasury report are available from Louise Ediger, Treasurer rlrediger@yahoo.com or 301-898-9945.

IN AND AROUND MARYLAND

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Busy in Anne Arundel County

We are a busy group in Anne Arundel County and are pleased with our accomplishments in recent months. To encourage children to read books, the librarian at the local elementary school collects items for prizes to be used as an incentive. Thus, we collected dozens of school supplies and passed them on to a very grateful librarian. The children are rewarded according to the books they read and they are excited to get the simple awards. It was an easy and fun project, and one we hope to continue.

Our rewarding sewing projects include making dozens of little flannel mittens for newborn babies at the hospital. The thumb-less mittens are held on by a narrow attached ribbon and are used to keep the newborns in the nursery from scratching themselves. Also, another hospital project is sewing soft and comfy fleece pillow cases for the children's floor. Bright prints to satisfy different age groups are used to bring a little cheer and color to the beds.

The poor are not forgotten. The ladies are currently working on the Christ Child project which supplies clothes and Christmas presents to be given to a needy child. Another ongoing outreach to the poor is the collection of many food items for the local shelter.

Looking toward Christmas, Kathy Anthony from the Chesapeake Decorative Painters instructed us in painting pretty Christmas tree ornaments using simple brush strokes, and dots of colors for the tree ornaments which were made with opposite end of the brush. We look forward to Christmas parties as we come to the years end.

Judy Ammenheuser
jammenheuser13@verizon.net

410-761-7437

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Our Annual Christmas Tea will be held Friday, December 2 at 12 noon at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. Also, our Christmas luncheon (dutch treat) will be held Friday, December 9 at Oscar's Restaurant, 12 noon. We cordially invite all FCE members to come to Western Maryland and enjoy some holiday fun with us. If attending please RSVP to Lessie Spates, 301-724-5277, lls@atlanticbb.net.

Our incoming President, Joy Lou Fogle, has planned crafts for the first three months of 2012, with Jane Wagner again conducting a basket making class in March.

Lessie Lee Spates
President

CARROLL COUNTY



Shown from left are Linda Payne, Carroll County Association for Family and Community Education secretary; Nancy McAllister, vice president; Barbara Shipley, president; Ruth Shipley, FCE representative to the Carroll County Agriculture Center; Elizabeth Heagy, club treasurer; Ellen Taylor, FCE representative to the Ag Center; Evelyn Roys, clubwoman; and Waltraut Staggs, marketing and scholarship chairwoman.

The Carroll County Association for Family and Community Education recently donated books and school supplies to The Shepherd's Staff back-to-school program.

This program provides free school essentials to Carroll County students in need, from pre-kindergarten through high school.

The Shepherd's Staff is a Christian outreach and support center in Westminster that serves those in need throughout the county.

The Carroll County FCE is composed of groups of individuals interested in learning and sharing up-to-date information and technology.

Members provide opportunities for individuals, families and communities to join them in improving literacy for adults and children.

Association members collect and donate books and other materials to the Family Life Center, Human Services Family Center and Dads' Works as well as The Shepherd's Staff.

In addition, FCE provides student scholarships and is involved in leadership development, "Character Counts" artwork and essay contest, Project Linus blanket project and environmental programs.

Linda Payne

FREDERICK COUNTY

Fall Activities Report

Frederick County FCE and Homemakers met on September 13 for the group's annual Board of Directors meeting at the 4-H Camp Center on Basford Road with 10 clubs and 50 members attending. Vice-President Starr Myklebust was elected as President-Elect, and Betty Thompson performed the Installation Ceremony, humorously referring many times to her "Star" performance, and presenting her with a "Star." The program on Quilts was highlighted by the announcement of a Quilt Fund Raiser. A lively auction of donated items was held following a potluck meal.

Frederick County demonstrated many different crafts including electrical tape roses, Mason jar lamps, fabric wreaths, fabric pumpkins, embroidery, Greening Up Your Cleaning Up, book marks, egg decorating, and flower making, at the Great Frederick Fair in September, culminating in a children's book give-away on Friday, September 23rd. Fall FCE and Homemaker lessons included Bullying and Crockpot Cooking. Many clubs had summer and September luncheon outings in the county, while others learned about digital cameras or bells.

Frederick County hosted the Maryland FCE Annual Conference October 20 and 21st at the Frederick Residence Inn. Activities included: the magic of FCE, a visit to the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre to see "Chicago," programs about greyhound dog rescue, "Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones," and "Made in America," a craft, some business, music, trivia, light exercise, and much more. Black-eyed Susan fabric tiles and

candy bon-bons were made by the Frederick County FCE and given as favors at the conference.

Frederick County FCE Homemakers will celebrate "Recipes for Holiday Entertaining" on December 16th. Entertainment and talent will be provided by Club members and favorite finger food recipes will be enjoyed during the event.

2012 Programs on tap include: Stink Bugs, Eastern European Cooking, Frederick County Tourism, Gardening in Drought Conditions, Meals in a Jar, Memory Enhancement, and Cupcake Decorating.

Libby Wade

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Fourteen members of Montgomery County FCE attended the State Conference in Frederick Maryland. We learned "How to turn Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones, about things made in America, Greyhound rescue, foot care and environmentally friendly household products. We enjoyed an evening at the theater. Everyone had a great time.

An October Fall Festival was held at the Agricultural History Farm Park where crafts and baked goods were sold and kids games were played. Money made will help support two scholarships at Montgomery College. We gave new books to children that attended the festival.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

We had time to kill before the beginning of our November meeting and shared some personal moments which we don't often have time to do enabling me to think about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, cherished by so many. Traditionally, it's a time for families to get together and enjoy good meals and good times. Those of us who do not have the opportunity to be with our families may gather around the Thanksgiving table with friends who are dear to us. Sometimes even that can't happen—I've had some years like that too, many of us have—and on those occasions, it is meaningful to do what we can for others, and to be grateful for the blessings we do have. It is a time to take stock and be thankful, to reach out to those who are less fortunate or lonely or solitary. It is a time for gratitude and giving. Whatever you do, and however

you spend the holiday, I hope that it is peaceful, satisfying, and a warm moment for you.

It is, as usual, a three ring circus around here because December is most wonderful time of the year! We are all busy festooning our homes with cheerful designs and of course a wardrobe to match. FCE is celebrating the season with a potluck luncheon on the 6th of December filled with fun, good food, great friends and the surprise of revealing a secret pal. Like many I'm sure, I'm scouring my cookbooks for a new and delicious potluck recipe to please everyone.

Then before the 13th of December its back to the cookbooks for a sweet treat for what has become our annual Cookie Swap to further celebrate the season with hot drinks and sweet treats, all wrapped up in holly and bows, with a poinsettia on top. Anyone who would like to join us is more than welcome. Call Sharon Adamoyurka at 301 751-6093 or email justapple@aol.com for more information. We always go out for lunch afterwards to complete our FCE year. Because life is so uncertain, we eat desserts first.

By the way, I heard through the grapevine, that some of you are on Santa's Naughty List. It's never too late to change that, so get out in your community and do a few good deeds and I'm sure Santa will put you on his Nice List.

From everyone in Prince George's County FCE we wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sharon Adamoyurka

Bulletin Board

We mourn the passing of Mary Ellen Shachat, a very supportive County extension agent for nine years and extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

Connie Yates' husband, Henry, died October 23rd. Connie wishes to thank everyone for their cards and concern. Her two sons have been very helpful at this sad time. Connie is working to get rid of "stuff" and selling her house and moving to Havre de Grace to live with her sister. She plans to continue as State FCE Membership Chairman. She will be greatly missed by Allegany County FCE members.

ACWW News



The Concept

On or around ACWW Day, 29th April 2012 members throughout the world are asked to join in Women Walk the World for ACWW.

The walk could be:

- an organised ramble
- a walk around a neighbourhood
- a walk to the well to get water
- a walk to the fields to tend animals
- a stroll in a park

Aims:

- raise ACWW's image
- promote ACWW
- increase the funds

Why walking:

- Inexpensive – no special equipment involved.
- Achievable – can be done nearly anywhere, anytime.
- Easy – just get up and walk!



Arranging the walk for ACWW Day on April 29th would be ideal, but it could be any suitable date. Everyone starting their walk at the same time, say 10 AM, in different time zones, would result in members walking at all times during a 24 hour period. Where possible, members could seek local sponsorship. Have fun and raise lots of Pennies for Friendship!

Please take part for your own health and for the "health" of ACWW.

START PLANNING NOW!

So FCE members, how can we do this? I want to hear your ideas; perhaps several counties could get together and walk in a local park, or at an Extension facility, or with other groups. Please contact Martha Moser at 301-371-6132 or mcatmoser@aol.com with your ideas.

**2nd Meeting of the Country Women's Council
USA Area Meeting of ACWW
Airport Marriott, Columbus, Ohio
September 22-24, 2011
"Empowering Women Worldwide – Encourage,
Educate, and Enrich"**

Sue Van Slyke, Prince George's County and Barbara and Lowell Perry, Montgomery County represented Maryland FCE at the Annual Country Women's Council USA (CWC) meeting in September.

Thursday was a full day spent visiting an Amish settlement in Ohio which included the Warther Museum showcasing 64 ebony ivory and walnut train carvings created by Ernest "Mooney" Warther and Mrs. Warther's 73,000 button collection. The Warther family has crafted high quality knives since 1912. The museum is in Dover, OH and is worth visiting for a couple of hours (www.warthers.com). At the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin, OH we saw a 265 foot mural-in-the-round depicting the religious history of the Amish and Mennonite culture. This is worth visiting also. We enjoyed an Amish family style luncheon and we shopped at Lehman's Hardware Store in Kidron, OH.

Four programs on Friday morning included introductions to garments and other products made from fabric made from bamboo (www.deborahannbamboo.com) and likewise from alpacas (www.alpacanation.com/swishercreekfarm.asp). Feng Shui (pronounced Fung Sway) stresses how we shape and live our lives in various environments and Simple Truth about Money promoted examining our financial plans annually. In the afternoon we visited the Ohio Statehouse, an actual size replica of the Santa Maria ship and a fascinating topiary park depicting a painting with life size characters. In the evening colonial days in America were brought to life by Patsy Cooper of Parksburg, West Virginia.

Saturday morning a report on the ACWW Triennial held in Hot Springs, Arkansas thanked our societies for their financial support (\$68,000) and Country Store donations (\$13,800). Six hundred thirty-four (634) people from 24 countries attended the triennial. As the host country we were able to meet all of our obligations.

Sunday, April 29, 2012 there will be a Walk Across the World to raise the image of ACWW,

raise money for Pennies for Friendship and gain exercise and camaraderie with neighbors. Suggested publicity is to take pictures and incorporate with exercise groups. Suggest \$29 for 29 minute walk, \$.29 a day (\$105.65 a year), \$.29 a week (\$15.08 a year), \$.29 for each mile walked at any time, etc.

Mission of the ACWW Societies is:

- Promote ACWW activities in our local communities
- Support Resolutions and Recommendations passed at 2010 and previous triennial conferences
- Collect Pennies for Friendship for administration and projects worldwide
- Promote ACWW connection with the United Nations as a NGO (Non governmental participant)

ACWW supports projects of:

- Leadership and skill training
- Nutrition/education
- Literacy, HIV, family planning
- Small business, small scale agriculture

2012 CWC meeting will be September 23-25 in Manchester, New Hampshire

Next ACWW Triennial conference will be September 26-October 2, 2013 in Chennai, India

Barbara Perry, MDFCE delegate

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all the county treasurers who got their membership forms and information in on time. No one missed the deadline. During November, I updated our information and forwarded it to National. It is still possible to join MDFCE. Just send the forms and checks to me as soon as you get them. We encourage new memberships at any time.

Connie Yates, Membership Chairman
19219 National Hwy. NW
Frostburg, MD 21532-3130 301-689-6515

Baking Soda – Aha! Use – Polishing Silver*

Wash items and then place them on a sheet of aluminum foil in the bottom of a non-reactive glass, ceramic or plastic pan. Add a baking soda solution (1/4 cup baking soda, a few teaspoons salt and 1 quart boiling water) to cover items for a few seconds. Remove. Wash in hot, soapy water and gently buff dry. This chemical reaction will get the black off your gravy boat and ornate objects!

* You could damage the silver if you use this recipe too often. Not recommended for silver plated items.

Susan Morris

Broccoli Casserole from the Burning Bush Restaurant in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

2 eggs, beaten
4 TB chopped onion
1 can cream mushroom soup (not diluted)
2/3 cup mayonnaise
2 boxes frozen broccoli, cooked
(You can use fresh broccoli from the garden, about 2 cups which has been chopped and cooked and drained.)
Beat eggs in bowl. Combine in separate bowl onions, soup and mayonnaise. Mix in eggs with other ingredients - add broccoli and mix. Put in casserole dish.

Melt 1/2 stick butter and add 3/4 cup bread cubes and put on top of casserole. I cube the bread myself into about 1/4 inch cubes. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes to 1 hour. It is done when the center is set up and the bread cubes are slightly brown. If the bread cubes become too brown and the center is not done, just put a lid on the casserole. This will serve at least 8 people. This is one way my husband likes broccoli, and many of our friends when I have them to dinner enjoy the casserole and I give them the recipe. Kathryn Nicodemus



Six Pillar Mnemonics

COLOR SCHEME

Trustworthiness: blue

Think "true blue"

Respect: yellow/gold

Think the Golden Rule

Responsibility: green

Think being responsible for a garden or finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak

Fairness: orange

Think of dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends

Caring: red

Think of a heart

Citizenship: purple

Think regal purple as representing the state

Christmas in United States of America

Santa Claus was born in US in the 1860's he was named this as he had a white beard and a belly, so he was named Santa Claus as this was the Dutch word for St Nicholas, *Sintaklaas*. Although the Dutch had bought him with them in the 17th century, he did not become an important person at Christmas until the Novelist Washington Irving put him in a novel that he wrote in 1809. This first Santa Claus was still known as St. Nicholas, he did smoke a pipe, and fly around in a wagon without any reindeer, but he did not have his red suit or live at the North Pole, he did however bring presents to children every year.

In 1863 he was given the name Santa Claus and bore the red suit, pipe, and his reindeer and sleigh.

Now Christmas celebrations vary greatly between regions of the United States, because of the variety of nationalities which have settled in it.

Early European settlers brought many traditions to the United States. Many settled in the early days in the South, these settlers would send Christmas greetings to their distant neighbors by shooting firearms and letting off fireworks. In Hawaii this practice is still in use as under the sunny skies, Santa Claus arrives by boat and Christmas dinner is eaten outdoors.

AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE

Life presents us with challenges
That we must overcome,
And sometimes all the detours
Can leave the senses numb.

We pass along the way,
But it can become a stepping stone
When love comes into play.

Wherever there's an obstacle
That we must rise above,
It helps to overcome it with
An attitude of love.

For anger never solves a thing
And stress will bring us down,

But love unlocks the doorway
Where hope and faith are found.

So many things divide us
Throughout the human race,
But love's the great uniter,
The smile on mankind's face!
Life presents us with challenges
That we must rise above,
And blessed is he who can maintain
An attitude of love.

Clay Harrison

**Maryland Association for
Family & Community Education
15500 Gallaudet Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20905**

