

Happy New Year!



It is our hope that 2018 is off to a great start for you. During this organization's 20th year of existence, several accomplishments made it a very rewarding year! Most significant was the election of two

new members to our Board of Directors at MRSPT's Annual Meeting in October. Vacancies created by the departure of long-time Board members Gerrard Jolly and Nelson Rimensnyder were filled by **Michael DuBose** and **Peter Kissel**, both of whom have actively supported MRSPT's mission and programs in various ways over the past several years. We are excited to welcome them as they join incumbent Board members **Joyce Bailey, Barbara Johnson, Dale Jones, John Saxton, Theresa Saxton, Patricia Tyson** and **Clinton Williams**.

One of MRSPT's primary goals in 2017 was to vigorously recruit volunteers from our membership who could handle some of the functions MRSPT's officers had been performing through the appointment of special committees. Consequently, two such committees were instrumental in helping our organization operate much more efficiently—and they seemed to enjoy their tasks!

Each having supported MRSPT consistently in some manner over a period of years, we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge their service as well as express our appreciation for their willingness to step forward and provide much needed assistance:

Military Road School Donnesa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Committee members **Dayo Akinsheye, Claudia Anyaso** and MRSPT Board member **Dale Jones** undertook the task of reviewing our scholarship program and submitting appropriate recommendations toward improving the application, review and selection processes. Their diligent and meticulous work was so impressive that they will be serving again in 2018!

Volunteers **Taft Hylton, Daryl Pennington** and **Melvin Wallace**, who have each actively participated in at least one of MRSPT's programs, agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee—a "first" for MRSPT—for the 2017 Annual Meeting. They were charged with the task of reviewing candidates for the organization's offices and presiding over the Annual Meeting at which time they presented the candidates for approval. We are deeply grateful for the thorough job they performed!

2017 Prayer Breakfast



Our annual Prayer Breakfast was held at the St. Luke Baptist Church on March 18th and renowned vocalist, **Ms. Annette Singletary**, provided an inspiring rendition of "Great is Thy Faithfulness," which was also

this year's theme, chosen to highlight many of the blessings this organization has experienced over the past 20 years. In addition to prayers by host pastor **Rev. Aubrey C. Lewis, Rev. Dr. Melvin D. Wallace** offered an encouraging message as the occasion was also an opportunity to introduce and recognize many of the special people who made various contributions that have contributed to the success of our mission. The 2018 Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 17th and space is limited so **reservations must be made at (202) 241-7276 by March 10th. No reservations will be accepted after that date!**

Sharing the History and Legacy of the Military Road School

- **Military Road School Alumni Presentations**

January 12th ~ Anacostia Library

February 9th ~ Shepherd Park Library

February 24th ~ Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School (LAMB)

June 7th ~ Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School (LAMB)

- **Military Road School Donnesa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Awards**

MRSPT was pleased to provide a total of \$6,000 for college-related expenses to seven local students for the 2017-2018 school year. Generous donations given by supporters like you made it possible for us to financially assist award recipients **Robel Abza, Daniella Butler, Amy Green, Dawit Mammo, Erica Morton, Philip O'Sullivan** and **Arica Shepherd** in their pursuit of a college degree.

On their behalf, we thank you for your generosity and we encourage you to continue investing in the futures of deserving young people like these by designating a contribution to the scholarship fund to assist this year's awardees in the 2018-2019 school year!

Nannie Helen Burroughs Wreath-Laying Event



On May 10th, MRSPT group of citizens to honor local educator and activist, Nannie Helen Burroughs, at the location of her former school in northeast D.C. During a wreath-laying ceremony, tributes were offered by attendees, which included some whose lives had been personally touched through association with her school in some manner. In recognition of Ms. Burroughs' endeavors to achieve equality and education excellence, MRSPT was pleased to organize this special observance of Nannie Helen Burroughs Day as declared by Mayor Walter E. Washington in 1975.

Lincoln-Thomas Day Commemoration



In partnership with the National Park Service, on Saturday, September 16th, MRSPT held the annual commemoration of Lincoln-Thomas Day, which celebrates the unlikely but historically significant

Civil War-related alliance between President Abraham Lincoln and Brightwood resident Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor Thomas, at the Fort Stevens Battleground. This year's program participants included the **JROTC of the Anacostia High School**, Military Road School alumnus **Mrs. Beatrice Liggins**, The **Montgomery Blair High School's Chamber Choir**, and local actress **Ms. Donise Stevens**, who portrayed Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas and **Dr. Matthew Palus**, Senior Archaeologist of the Ottery Group, Inc., who gave a special presentation with respect to historic findings recently uncovered on the grounds of the Emory United Methodist Church site.

Rock Creek Park Day



The National Park Service celebrated Rock Creek Park Day on September 23rd on a portion of the Fort Totten Battleground site located along South Dakota Avenue in northeast D.C. Because

of the Military Road School's Civil War connection with Fort Stevens, MRSPT hosted an exhibit table at which a number of visitors learned about the School's history and our endeavors to share its legacy.

Annual Membership Meeting



The Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives was the site of our 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on October 14th. Museum Director

Kimberly Springle addressed our gathering and congratulated us on reaching the 20-year milestone. MRSPT Officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected as attendees enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and become better acquainted with our organization's history. Several members who have volunteered to help with our activities over the years used the occasion to share their experiences as well as express their intentions to make themselves available in the future. We appreciate their commitment to MRSPT's mission and our Board of Directors was honored to welcome long-time supporters Michael DuBose and Peter Kissel to begin serving with incumbent Board members for the next two years.

Because MRSPT is a membership organization, we are making a concentrated effort to encourage you to begin now or to continue your financial support in 2018. Although a contribution of \$15.00 or more will demonstrate your support for our programs, we also hope you will maximize the opportunity to become more involved in the election process that ensures MRSPT's mission will continue. There are many simple tasks that volunteers perform which are key to the success of events like the annual Prayer Breakfast. Also, serving on a special committee was a new but very fulfilling experience for five MRSPT members in 2017...so what are you waiting for?

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Like many other non-profit organizations, MRSPT, endeavors to carry out its mission and serve the citizens in our communities through its sponsorship of educational programs with maximum impact at minimal cost. Accordingly, those of you who receive this Newsletter as well as current information about MRSPT's programs and events of interest via email significantly reduce our operating expenses. Electronic recipients also receive communications and information that may not be mailed out. If you would, therefore, like to utilize that form of communication, please send an email to thelasax@mrspt.org. Thanks!



Sharing The Legacy



**Yes, I want to help preserve the
Military Road School Legacy!**



- Enclosed is my gift of: \$15
 \$25 \$50 \$75
 \$100 Other \$ _____

The Military Road School Preservation Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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