

Summer 2009



Interages® News

Hello Friends,

I must begin on a sad note as Interages lost a very dear friend this year. It is with a heavy heart that I write about the passing of Elaine Lessenco. Her enthusiasm for Intergenerational Programs was infectious. She would say: "What a wonderful organization that provides rewards to both the volunteers and those served." Elaine had been an active volunteer for over 12 years. Most recently, she tutored in our Grandreaders' literacy program and mentored in our Intergenerational Bridges Program. In partnership with the Smithsonian Postal Museum, Interages initiated the "*Heroes on Stamps Program*." This program is being dedicated in memory of Elaine Lessenco. Please refer to page six for more information.



Elaine joined our Board of Directors and was President of Interages for six years. She was a great leader with strong principles. And what was so impressive and heartwarming about Elaine was her humble and gracious attitude. Her warmth and compassion made her a star volunteer. Her fairness and vision made her an outstanding Board President.

During Interages' 20th Anniversary Celebration, Elaine received an award for her decades of caring and devotion to helping the citizens of Montgomery County. In March of this year, the Interages Board of Directors and staff awarded Elaine the "Margaret Cutler Intergenerational Leadership Award." This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in developing, implementing, or supporting intergenerational programs in Montgomery County. Elaine's dedication, leadership, enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude has made her an inspiration to all of us at Interages who have had the privilege and pleasure to know her and work with her.

As you can imagine, this has been a very difficult and challenging year for Interages. The economic crisis has hit all non-profits hard! Interages' Staff and Board of Directors have worked together to keep our organization on solid ground during these challenging times. Fortunately, Interages' programs are strong and we have had another very successful year providing incredible programs and spreading the word about the importance of intergenerational programs in Montgomery County.

Thanks to the Interages staff, Board of Directors, individual contributors, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Montgomery County Public Schools for your continued help and support. We would also like to express a HUGE Thank You to the Foundations and Corporations (names are listed on page nine of our newsletter) for your help and support this year. To Interages' wonderful Volunteers, we could not do what we do without your help and support! We are so fortunate to have all of you on our team. Thank you everyone for a great year!

Have a wonderful summer,
Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Carol".

Carol Carol,

Grandreaders and AARP's Gaithersburg Chapter: Perfect Together!

The Grandreaders Program at Brown Station Elementary School in Gaithersburg completed its 6th school year this spring, and this longevity owes in significant part to the solid base of volunteer support from the AARP Gaithersburg chapter membership. Over the years, this group has consistently provided tutors for Brown Station – even finding their own replacements when someone has to leave the program. We thought we'd take time to highlight these wonderful friends of Interages.



AARP Chapter Background: The Gaithersburg AARP chapter boasts 135 members and maintains an impressive schedule of activities throughout the year. Chapter officers Bobby Rosenfeld (President) and Annette Thompson (Treasurer) recently met with me in preparation for this article – and finding a moment's free time to talk was no small challenge. These women are on the move -- and AARP business tops their to-do lists. May 2009's edition of their quarterly newsletter lists monthly chapter meetings that include social or community service programs, a catered dinner, and an impressive array of speakers (the docket in coming months includes US House of Representatives member Donna Edwards; a professional singer; and an energy crisis expert).

Bobby and Annette gratefully acknowledge the support and free space they receive from the Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center, host to all chapter meetings and many other AARP events. "This is home base" says Bobby, enumerating the many ways they benefit from the Center's generosity. Interages can "second" this endorsement of the Center – they've generously provided us with space for open house events, and for fingerprinting our new volunteers from upcounty.

Community Service: Annette explains that AARP's motto is "to serve, not to be served," and this chapter exemplifies the motto. With many former teachers and nurses as members, they choose to focus their service efforts on schools and children. This translates into many activities, including a twice-yearly drive to purchase 80 backpacks stocked full of school supplies for low income kids at four area elementary schools; and "literacy bags" for younger Head Start children containing books, activity workbooks, crayons, a stuffed animal, and a do-at-home science experiment about magnets. The AARP group loves to stretch every dollar they raise -- they've even organized car pools to area stores where 8-10 members get on line to take advantage of sales with a "per customer" limit on crucial backpack items.

Other chapter projects include two bazaars each year to sell donated/resale items. The proceeds go to the senior center as a contribution for all their support throughout the year. AARP members also make and deliver gifts – corsages, flower pots, and other personal items -- to residents at local nursing homes and assisted living communities.

Grandreaders: And of course, their primary school-year long commitment is reading with students at Brown Station through Interages. The school served as a pilot program site in the early days of Grandreaders. "We responded to an advertisement in the paper," says Annette, and it proved to be a dynamic partnership. Altogether, 19 chapter members have participated in Interages programs over the years. Most volunteers return year after year, ending their involvement only when they move away from the area.

The Grandreaders who have tutored at Brown Station have made genuine positive contributions to the academic success of our students. I will always be grateful to them for the many, many hours they have given and all the special things they have done for the children," says Celia Sonnabend, the school's reading specialist and on-site coordinator of the program.

Continued on next page....

(Continued from previous page...)

As tutors, the volunteers really get to know their students each year. The children's personal stories range from comical to poignant as tutors hear about family challenges, sibling rivalries, hobbies, pets, and friends – and strive to separate fact from fiction. In the classroom, tutors design creative solutions to address problems of attention, language, and others. One especially active boy repeatedly tipped over backwards in his chair. His tutor set a clear limit – no leaving blood on the floor! This deal worked to slow him down enough to focus on the lesson. Another girl took weeks of reminding before she learned to stop at periods; her reading comprehension improved noticeably after that. In one “intergenerational moment,” a tutor described the “ice cream parlor” of days gone by for her student, when one appeared in a Curious George story.

As the group carpools to and from Brown Station each week, they share these moments. Some favorite student quotes include “You're my best friend!” and “Would you be my grandma?” “Many students grow to like reading during the program year – once they get better at it, reading becomes enjoyable” notes Annette. It's those moments and relationships that keep the tutors coming back. “We're very happy. It makes us feel good. We get as much out of it as the kids,” says Bobby.

But don't think the chapter is all work and no fun. My interview with Bobby and Annette was delayed while the group was on a cruise to Bermuda. The group schedules two trips annually, and past destinations included Ireland; Alaska; Branson, Missouri; Nova Scotia; Myrtle Beach; and Cape Cod. Every other month, they charter a bus to Charlestown for a day of gambling and camaraderie.

Anyone interested in learning more about AARP's Gaithersburg chapter should contact Bobby Rosenfeld at 301-515-2606 or rkr35@verizon.net Everyone's welcome – but be forewarned – they'll aim to put you to work!

-Sara Cartmill

Earth Day was April 22nd. The mentors and students in Bridges read about it in Scholastic's *Action Magazine* and reflected on what two things they could do differently to help protect our environment. Based on a survey that each person completed, we list below the most mentioned items on *their* TO-DO list. What's on *your* list? Feel free to borrow from their suggestions.

- 1 – Turn the LIGHTS OUT when not in the room
- 2 – Turn the WATER OFF while brushing your teeth or working in the kitchen and take SHORTER SHOWERS
- 3 – RECYCLE cans, paper, plastic 
- 4 – DON'T LITTER and pick up trash in the park or street
- 5 – Use LESS PAPER (i.e., fewer paper towels, write on both sides)
- 6 – Make the house 2 DEGREES WARMER in summer and COLDER in winter
- 7 – PLANT A GARDEN or TREE 
- 8 – Use REUSABLE BAGS at the grocery
- 9 – REPLACE leaky faucets 
- 10 – DON'T let the CAR RUN, or better yet, WALK 



Sharon Kaufmann (left) and Stacy Samet (right), Grandreaders at Maryvale Elementary School, shared additional gifts with our program this year. Sharon designed individual bookmarks for each of the 125

children in the program, including their names printed in calligraphy writing. Stacy made a generous donation to Interages toward the purchase of sets of children's books for use at multiple schools where Interages provides all materials. We've added a dozen new lessons, complete with shiny new books, to use throughout the school year.

Thanks for all you do Sharon and Stacy!

Spotlight on Intergenerational Programs: Brooke Grove Retirement Village

Brooke Grove Retirement Village utilizes the time and talent of dozens of youth each year, in a variety of programs and activities throughout their resident campus. It's a terrific example of the types of intergenerational opportunities that can be offered by nursing and assisted living facilities, even those with limited staff time available.

Nancy Ochsenreiter, Director of Volunteer Services at Brooke Grove, recently described the many ways teenagers (ages 13 through 18) contribute to the community's life. As summer arrives, they can count on an average of 10 teens each day to help out around the campus.

Students typically contact Brooke Grove seeking to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credit hours in return for volunteering. (Every student in the Montgomery County Public School system needs at least 75 SSLs in order to graduate from high school). Most students have learned about Brooke Grove from older siblings who volunteered previously, and a few have grandparents who live there. While students may begin with a plan to contribute a few hours, Nancy says that most wind up staying on and earning all 75 hours at Brook Grove...and more!

Each student attends mandatory volunteer orientation (offered monthly throughout the year), and completes a written application. Initially, students shadow a staff person or more experienced volunteer, and most work within the Life Enrichment Department at Brooke Grove. This means students are primarily involved with residents participating in activities like crafts, puzzles, or bingo games. Some students perform for residents – violin and piano concerts are recent activities teens have offered.

Brooke Grove offers several special events during the year, and students serve as crucial extra hands during these times. Each spring, the community hosts an outdoor kite flying day. Students often serve as the “legs” at this event, doing the initial running required to get kites aloft before handing them on to residents for flying. Similarly, the annual campuswide Neighborhood Block Party (held on June 20th this year) depends on the volunteer efforts of many people – including students. This celebration includes grilled food, popcorn, snow cones, pony rides, a petting zoo, carnival games, crafts, face painting, a steel band, a magician, balloon artists, you name it! The day includes residents, staff, and families – drawing about 500 people to the campus.

This summer, two industrious Bethesda Chevy Chase High School students successfully applied for a grant from the BCC Foundation's Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program to provide art instruction and activities to residents. These students have mapped out a full schedule – 4 hours per day, 4 days per week, over a six-week period – designed to “provide happiness and enjoyment for the elders and for ourselves” as well as offering a “basic understanding of art techniques, a concluding exhibit of participants' work, and valuable artwork for families to cherish.” This workshop will run through the end of July.

What does the future hold for Brooke Grove's intergenerational programming? Staff is exploring a possible relationship with students at nearby Brooke Grove Elementary School (but nothing is established yet). In the meantime, teens will continue to provide

extra hands and youthful energy in support of the programs and residents at Brooke Grove. “Being part of Brooke Grove is a good life experience for the students. They take good things away from it,” Nancy sums up.





SHARE: Making Connections

The 2nd graders from Darnestown Elementary were talking to their senior friends at Collingswood Nursing and Rehabilitation about what happens in the springtime, and making a list of the ideas that they came up with. You know there's been a good exchange between the two generations when listed along with "it's the time when you can play outside and eat ice cream" are the following: "it's time to clean up the barn" and "you play with marbles outside".

One of the residents at Collingswood was just so happy to be painting with watercolors with the students. She exclaimed, "I finally get to play!" She explained to the group of students at her table that when she was a child she wasn't allowed to play very often. Her parents kept her busy with schoolwork or chores. So now in her 80's, she enjoys the opportunity to play with the kids.

And finally, at a meeting of Sunrise-Montgomery Village residents and students from the Gaithersburg Youth Center, teams created "Top Ten" lists together. Among these were several ideas for "Ways to Be Happy." Top suggestions included keeping your health, singing, laughter, honesty, wearing bright colors, and eating good food (mostly DESSERT). Wise words from both generations!

-Jeanne Reilly



Four students from St. Mary's School say goodbye to Shirley Berman of Sunrise Senior Living, Rockville at the closing celebration of the SHARE program year.



The Smithsonian National Postal Museum and Interages present a new Program

Heroes on Stamps is a program in partnership with the **Smithsonian National Postal Museum**. This program will enable middle school students and Interages Volunteers to work on a project together that will provide both groups with new knowledge and opportunities to create and share together, thereby fostering the development of respect and understanding between the generations.

Heroes on Stamps was piloted at Rosa Parks Middle School this spring. We were fortunate to have Kimberly St. John, a talented Social Studies teacher from Rosa Parks Middle School, lead this program with her students that participate in the after-school Celebrations Club offered by the Montgomery County Recreation Department (MCRD). Students worked in small groups with guidance from Interages Volunteers to select and study an inspirational “hero” from history who has been featured on a US postage stamp. Students and Volunteers discussed local heroes and their individual heroes.

Allison Wickens, the Postal Museum’s Education Director, visited the school twice and shared many educational concepts with the students and the adult volunteers. They learned how artists design their stamps, the symbols they select and the expressions on the heroes’ faces, all providing more insight into the heroes. The students and volunteers received a special tour of the Smithsonian Postal Museum from Allen Kane, the Director of the Museum. Students learned how letters were transported during the earliest days of the Postal Service and how they are transported today. Letter writing was discussed and Volunteers talked about the importance of letter writing when they were in middle school. Students discussed e-mailing and text-messaging as common communication methods of middle school students today.

At the end of this session, Interages, the Smithsonian Postal Museum, and students from Rosa Parks Middle School and other stake holders joined for an excellent reception at the National Postal Museum and shared the results of the students’ and Volunteers’ research on a hero they would like to emulate.

The *Heroes on Stamps* program is being dedicated to the memory of an Interages hero, Elaine Lessenco. Elaine had a tremendous impact on children through Interages and her work in the Montgomery County Public Schools. Every “Heroes” program will have a component about local heroes and Elaine Lessenco’s story will be told. Students will learn what one person can do to make a difference in an entire community.

We would like to give special thanks to Allen Kane, the Director of the Smithsonian Postal Museum, and his staff for their tremendous help and support to get this program started. Also thanks to Gabe Albornoz, the Director of the Montgomery County Recreation Department, and Carlos Falcon and Karen Jordan of MCRD’s Teen Rec-Extra Program.



Rosa Parks Middle School teacher Kim St. John smiles with Interages volunteers and student participants from the “Heroes on Stamps” program.

This intergenerational program will be expanded to more schools next year and will provide many opportunities for two different generations to share, compare and learn about historical heroes and local heroes, as well as communication methods, past and present. This is a six week after-school program that will meet once a week for one hour. It will take place in the spring of 2010. If you would like to participate in this very exciting program or know someone that would be interested, please have them call Sara Cartmill at 301- 949-3551.

-Carol Croll

“HEROES ON STAMPS”

Event at the
Smithsonian
Postal Museum



Sarah Pinkney-Murkey– Rosa Parks
Middle School Principal



Gabe Albornoz–
Director of MC Recreation Dept.



Michael Sorrells– Interages Board Member, Carol Croll– Interages
Executive Director, Austin Heyman– Founder, Interages Board Member



Marilyn Tublin-Past Board Member
Roslyn Beitler– Elaine Lessenco’s Sister, Carol Croll



Adrian Talley– County Superintendent/Interages Board Member
Kojo Gybaah– Interages Board Member
Louisa Magzanian– Interages Staff



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELAINE LESSENCO



Michelle Sender
Harry Pitt
Rhonda Tenenbaum
Nathan & Ellen Schaefer
Lawrence & Roberta Shulman
Dr. Henry & Nancy Shetterly
Barbara Stout
Judith Bresler
Lenore Sack
Joan Karasik
Joel & Bernice Breslau
Charles & Josephine Dobbs
Charles & Nada Marth
Maurice & Sonya Dunie
William & Barbara Harkaway
Edward & Norma Rosen
Laurence & Susan Jeweler
Coleman & Sylvia Raphael
Jules & Anne Cohen
Austin & Barbara Heyman
C. Robert & Joan Blum
Daniel & Myra Framm
Stanley & Madeleine Sigel
William Bronrott
Paul & Zena Mason
Michael Gula & Mary Ann Larkin
David & Shirley Goldenberg
Richard & Eileen Lavine
Edward, Alan & Lynn Baklor
Jane Friend
Gene & Cynthia Counihan
Stanley & Marian Scheiner
Carol Murphy
D.F. Goodman
Phoebe Gilchrist
Ann Gilden
Dr. Carl and Randy Margolis
Eleanor Davidov

Barry & Brigitta Brkic
Joanne Mehmert
Stanley & Trudie Smith
Jeffrey & Bonnie Schwartzberg
Carol Roberts
Irwin & Hellaine Nepo
Suzanne Offit
Sandra Riggs
M & J Gaffney
Michael Heeb & Karen Sagett
Howard & Zoe Lefkowitz
Micheal & Barbara Gordon
Suzan B. Friedman
Brian & Susan Foster
Fredlyn Karp
Nancy Weicking
Charles & Margaret Cutler
Michael & Dorothy Gordon
Warren & Judith Glick
Carl Newberg
Natalie Gitelman
James & Marjorie McMann
Robert & Eleanor Lurensky
Edward & Marcia Hummers
Louis & Libby Pohoryles
Irving & Barbara Cohen
Sadie Beitler

Jerome & Elaine Snider
Sandra & William Kitzes
Froma & Jerome Sandler
Marilyn Rose
Sandra Lebowitz
Cecilia Nunez
Roberta Jameson
Robert & Sylvia Frank
Loretta Rosenthal
David & Gayle Stratman
David & Marjorie Richman
Dr. Yash Gupta
Denise DiFalco
Eric Tublin
Honorable Adrienne & Mr. Manny Mandel
Helen Wolfe
Marshall & Phyllis Cole
Dr. Burton & Diane Epstein
Joan DePontet
Mark & Emily Ludwikowski
Diana Skall
Steven Epstein
Honorable Paul Weinstein



THANK YOU

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
SMITHSONIAN POSTAL MUSEUM

INTERAGES GREATLY APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF
THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS,
AGENCIES, AND INDIVIDUALS.

This list represents donations and support since our
Winter Newsletter 2009 and through June 26, 2009. (Every attempt
is made to ensure the accuracy of the list. If an omission is detected,
please notify the Interages office at 301-949-3551 immediately.)

Individual Contributors

Paul Vance
Robert & Rhoda Chanin
Irwin & Hellaine Nepo
Dr. Burton & Diane Epstein
Larry Hartnett
Donald & Dorothy Gish
Edith Daman
Richard & Nancy Gould
Shirley Wilets
Wanda Van Goor
Larry & Bettymerle Berkow
Stuart & Judith Rosenthal
Phillip & Lorrie McMann
Lois Stoner
Howard & Zoe Lefkowitz
John & Betty Diggs
Loretta Rosenthal
Alvin & Ellen Ross
Jeremiah & Clara Floyd
Henry & Amy Felices
Maurice & Sonya Dunie
Margit Meissner
Robert & Joanne Fishman
Sandra Bobb
Jane Barrett
Sandra Ames
Herbert & Judith Weintraub
Brenda Holt Rosa
Allen & Jane Cheever
Roger Langsdorf
Lila Segal

In Memory of Betsy McDonald
Sally Gateley

In Memory of Sara Stein
Dr. Burton & Diane Epstein

In Memory of Dr. Neofytos Tsangaris
Dr. Burton & Diane Epstein

In Honor of Dorothy Linowes
Dr. Burton & Diane Epstein

In Honor of John Linehan
Oscar & Judith Hines

Corporate Contributors

Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
Capital Phones
Colesville Center
Collingswood Nursing Home
Fitzgerald Auto Mall
Gazette Newspaper
Jerry's Subs & Pizza
PEPCO
Post Newsweek-Media
Roberts Oxygen
Rockville Fuel & Feed
Sorrento's
Sunrise Senior Living, Rockville

Foundation Contributors

Carl M. Freeman Foundation
Clark-Winchcole Foundation
The Commonwealth Foundation of-
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Corina Higginson Trust Foundation
The Meyer Foundation
Morris-Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Phase Foundation
Shugar Foundation
Spring Creek Foundation
Trawick Foundation
Venable Foundation

Bringing seniors and children
together to change
each other's lives...



Interages®

3950 Ferrara Drive, 2nd Floor
Wheaton, MD 20906

Phone: 301-949-3551
Fax: 301-949-3190
www.interagesmd.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KENSINGTON, MD

PERMIT No.6186

Curious about volunteer opportunities? *Visit an Interages Open House!*



Drop in, meet staff, and have your
questions answered at our upcoming events.

Bring a friend!!!

**Tuesday, July 28th, 10 AM – 1 PM or
Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 10 AM – 3 PM**

Summer is a great time to
learn more about ways
YOU can share your skills
and time during the
2009-10 school year!

Interages

3950 Ferrara Drive, 2nd Fl
Wheaton, MD 20906

OR contact Sara Cartmill, 301-949-3551, ext. 30
or via email: Cartmill@interagesmd.org

Light refreshments will be served.