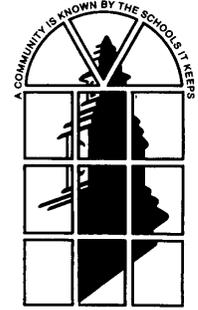


Senior Shakerites



A newsletter for former Shaker Heights City School District Employees
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Fall 2013

Donna Brittain, Editor

The Spring 2013 Luncheon was held at the *Shaker Heights Country Club*.



The following **Senior Shakerites** were in attendance at the luncheon:

Dee Arrington
Ruth Blumenthal
Donna Brittain
Lucy Burkett
George Cannon
Mary Louise Cesa
Don Coffee
Xiao Ying Coffee
Kay Dunlap
Marilyn Eppich
K-Leigh Erickson
Ann Farmer
Harry Farmer
John Federer
Claudia Federer
Deloris Fletcher
Adrienne Geszler
Margie Glaros
Joseph Greene
Vicki Griminger
Delores Groves
Donna Holtrey
Janet Houk
Constance Jefferson
Diana Jones

Bea Kauffman
Pamela Katz
Shirley Kilpatrick
Nick Koelkebeck
Marie Kysela
L. David Lawrence
Lillian Lichtman
Clyde Loughridge
Karen Loughridge
Rod MacLeod
Mary Ann Mahoney
Jim Mallin
Susan Mears
Marsha McGill
Tom Morgan
Glenda Moss
Charlene Nevans
Madeline Obrock
Kathy O'Neal
Barbara Owens
Wayne Owens
Renee Paige
Dick Peterjohn
Joyce Pope
Louise Pope

Linda Powers
Clair Rankin
Grace Rankin
Gary Raymond
Ruth Robbins
Linda Rocker
Gail Rose
Ellen Rubin
Catherine Satola
James Satola
Mary Sexton
Sam Sexton
Anthony Smith
Carol Spero
Ellen Stepanian
Liz Strickler
Millie Talbot-Redon
Karen Thailing
Rebecca Thomas
Jeanette Throne
Mary Underwood
Rona Weiss
Marilyn Wilk
Kathy Wolfe

A Message from Don

Dear Shaker Retirees,

I would like to announce that the new Shaker Retiree Website is up and running. It has been in development for the past year. Please go to it frequently for information that is meant for you. Of course, if you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me so that adjustments can be made.

You will find interesting facts about our history and our goals. You can link to the SERS and STRS and find the latest information on changes planned for our retirement systems.

Many of you who have visited the page are pleased with the many photos of past meetings. It is just fun to see our colleagues enjoying themselves.

Go to < www.shaker.org > bottom left column - prompt <**for our staff**> near the top of right column - prompt <**for our retirees**>

Hoping you will enjoy the pages!

We encourage you to continue to support our Shaker Schools Foundation. Collectively, our members have contributed \$2300.00 during the last two years by each one giving a few dollars at each meeting. I think this is a good way to support the good work in our Shaker Schools. For those who can't attend our luncheons and want to contribute please send your checks to Rebecca Thomas and she will see that your gift is delivered to the Foundation to support activities for the students and teachers. Thank you!

Don Coffee
President

PS: Based on previous positive comments over the last two Retired Teachers' Cultural and Teaching experience in China, our Shaker Heights Retired Educators' Association is going to launch the 3rd Retired Teachers' China Program in Oct 2014: To experience the culture, teaching, and to cruise on the Yangtze River. You are welcome to contact Don at agoodcupof@hotmail.com or 330-671-2717 for Early-bird registration starting in Nov. 2013.

Spring Newsletter

Please send any items for the next newsletter to either Don Coffee at 6414 Elmcrest Dr. Hudson, OH 44236 or email coffezon@hotmail.com or Donna Brittain at 25220 Woodline Road, Bedford Heights, Ohio 44146 - email: dawoim@earthlink.net

We'd love to hear of your adventures, activities, family events, and other news items.

Your ideas and input are important to us.

Senior Shakerites Annual Fall Luncheon

Welcome to all Shaker Heights School Retirees

WHEN: Wednesday, October 2, 2013

WHERE: *Cleveland Skating Club*

2500 Kemper Road (near Shaker Square)

Cleveland, Ohio 44120

(216) 791-2800

TIME: Gather at 11:00am for refreshments ... Lunch served at **NOON**

12:45 Program...SHHS Chanticleers

Special Guest – *Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.*

Superintendent of the Shaker Heights City Schools

Menu Selections

1. *Caesar Salad with Grilled Salmon*

2. *Hot Chicken Salad*

3. *Vegetarian Vegetable Stew*

All entrees will include Rolls and Butter, DESSERT, Coffee, Tea, and Iced Tea.

COST: \$25 includes tax and gratuity.

(Spouses & friends welcome)

**Please send reservation slip with check payable to:
SHAKER RETIRED TEACHERS AND STAFF**

Send to: Rebecca L. Thomas

2877 Lander Road

Pepper Pike, OH 44124 - Phone: 216.360.3990

RSVP by Wednesday, September 25, 2013

✂-----✂-----✂-----

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

No. Attending: _____ **Circle Menu Selection** 1 2 3

Luncheon: \$ _____ **Donation for Shaker Schools** \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

On April 3, 2013 the Shaker Heights Board of Education announced the selection of Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., as the Superintendent of the Shaker schools. He succeeds Mark Freeman, who retired this summer after 25 years of service in the role.

Hutchings previously served as Director of PreK-12 Initiatives for the Alexandria (Va.) City Public Schools, a district serving a diverse population of approximately 13,000 students. In this capacity, which is similar to the position of assistant superintendent in other school districts, Hutchings made instructional decisions for all middle school grade levels; guided his district's middle schools and high school through candidacy for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program; oversaw the implementation of a new pre-kindergarten curriculum, a new middle school honors curriculum, a new talented and gifted program, and revamped the adult education program. Hutchings also led several initiatives to advance achievement for all students.

Hutchings holds a B.S. in interdisciplinary studies from Old Dominion University and a master's in educational leadership from George Mason University. He obtained his doctorate in educational policy, planning and leadership from the College of William and Mary in 2010, successfully defending his dissertation on the effective teaching practices and teacher efficacy beliefs of International Baccalaureate MYP teachers. Hutchings has presented at conferences of the International Baccalaureate Organization and the Minority Student Achievement Network.

Hutchings has also held leadership roles in the public schools of Manassas, Va., and Nashville, Tenn., including positions as a middle school science teacher, high school assistant principal, and middle school principal. In 2009, he was named Tennessee Middle School Principal of the Year for leading changes that resulted in significant gains in student achievement at West End Middle School in Nashville and making it the top middle school in Nashville. Among many other honors, he was a fellow at the National Institute of Urban Leaders at Harvard University.

Hutchings and his wife Cheryl, a certified public accountant, have two children, ages 3 and 7, who will attend the Shaker schools.



Senior Shakerites

Recommend ...

Rebecca Thomas recommends The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Alternating chapters tell the story of Victoria Jones. As a child in foster care, Victoria avoids relationships, refusing to trust or risk rejection. As an adult, her skill with flowers and her understanding of the symbolic meanings associated with them become a path that could lead to emotional bonds that she both desires and fears.

Becky has also been reading the early series books from Sue Grafton, enjoying learning the back story about investigator Kinsey Millhone. "I started the series with P is for Peril and wanted to read all the earlier books. The electronic access to the area libraries makes it easy to order all the earlier books--or to get them for iPad or on CDs. I started with A is for Alibi and am almost caught up. I even have the new book on hold--W is for Wasted--even though it does not come out until September."

Gary Raymont has been reading the Alex Cross books by James Patterson beginning with Along Came a Spider. The librarians at the public library in Parma love helping him get the books in order. Now that he has a Kindle, he will be downloading titles to read. Go Gary!



**What are YOU reading?
Please send your book
recommendations.**

Spring 2014 Luncheon

The spring luncheon is normally held the first Wednesday in April. **Save that date on your calendar.** If you are able to provide us with a location, please contact Don Coffee at coffezon@hotmail.com. Everyone will receive a mailing with the confirmed date and location in the spring.

THANKS!!!

A special *thank you* to all those who make our luncheons and this newsletter possible:

Ellen Stepanian and Kathy O'Neal--
luncheon/guest speaker arrangements
Sonia Golden - calligraphy on name tags
Xiao Ying Coffee - photos
Colleen McCreary - assistance at the Ad Bldg
Mark O'Keefe - mailing
Adrienne Geszler , Gary Raymont, Becky
Thomas, Dee Arrington, Jean Morgan, Charlene
Nevans - printing, mailing and assistance with
the newsletter
Brooke Harville – moral support

You can help improve our communication efforts by sending email addresses to dawoim@earthlink.net.

We also need to update our mailing addresses. If you know of someone who has moved or changed names, it would be appreciated if you would call one of the officers.

Congratulations to the New Educator Emeritus

Sondra Martin

Educators Emeritus

Steve Fox
Rosemary Nagy
Donald Coffee
Barbara Hise
Joyce Pope
Olivia (Marianne) Schwartz
Robert Sylak
Beth Illes-Johnson
Donna Brittain
Janet Houk
Glenda Moss
Diane Smith
Isaac Smith III
Adrienne Geszler
Ruth Strauss Berger
Rebecca L. Thomas

The ***EDUCATOR EMERITUS*** program began in August 2009.

You can become an ***EDUCATOR EMERITUS*** by simply submitting an application to the Registration Office at the Shaker Heights Board of Education. You need to include a brief description of your professional activity within the District, but outside of the classroom — such as club sponsorship, team coaching, curriculum writing, etc.

Service to the District for at least one year after retirement is essential for your name to be placed on a plaque in the building of your choice.

Celebrations Are in Order...

Jessica Wilkes, High School Special Education Department Co-Chair, and husband Matt welcomed baby girl Alexandra Lynn Wilkes on June 26.



Erik Johnson of the High School Theatre Arts department and his wife Megan welcomed baby girl Sylvia Kaye Johnson on August 3.

Mary Ann Durkalski, librarian at Lomond and Mercer, and her husband James welcomed daughter Amelia Grace on August 7.



Senior Shakerites are Active and Busy...

On August 12, 2013, *Lucy Burkett* celebrated her 90th birthday with a party at Snow's Restaurant in Cedarville, Michigan. Shaker retirees in attendance included Ellen Stepanian, Patty Forsberg, Donna Brittain, and Becky Thomas. As part of the event, Lucy received numerous cards and well wishes from former students and colleagues. Best Wishes to Lucy!



We Extend Our Sympathy

Priscilla Cross, mother of Fernway school nurse **Barb Cross**, passed away on April 5.

Patricia Murray White, mother of Robert White ('73) and mother-in-law of Lori White, both teachers at the High School, passed away on April 9. She was also the mother of Shaker grads Christopher ('76), Patty ('77), Michael ('78), Daniel ('80), Pamela ('81), Jimmy ('82), Richard ('84), Marguerite ('86), and Ruth ('89). She was the grandmother of Patrick ('08), Lindsay ('11), Karim Ragab ('12) and Omar Ragab ('15).

Gene Zajac's father passed away on April 9.

Elinor Toll Dunlop (SHHS '37), mother-in-law of Middle School intervention specialist **Carol Dunlop**, passed away on April 20. She is also survived by her children Beth (SHHS '65), Scott (SHHS '68), Robin (SHHS '70), Heather (SHHS '74), and Alison (SHHS '75.)

Mary Cullen, mother-in-law of High School social worker **Chris Ruma-Cullen**, passed away in April. Among her survivors are Erin Cullen, a senior at the High School, and Emily Cullen (SHHS '11).

Shirley Bernon, mother of Mercer intervention specialist **Elizabeth Siegel**, passed away April 24.

James Joyce, grandfather of High School Assistant Principal **Sara Joyce**, passed away on May 15.

Louise Lynch, mother of retired Middle School assistant principal **Renee Paige**, passed away in June.

Robert Ulrich, husband of retired High School Latin teacher **Jane Ulrich**, passed away on June 20.

Omar Arrington-Bey (SHHS '93) passed away on June 21.

Lee Davis IV (SHHS '07), son of **Marcia McMillan-Davis** and **Lee Davis III**, passed away on July 24 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was serving in the Air Force. Marcia retired from Woodbury in 2006 after 29 years of service, and Lee III was with our maintenance staff for over 16 years. Lee IV is also survived by two brothers, **Russell Boles** (SHHS '91) and **William Watson** (SHHS '02).



In Memoriam...

Martin Meshenberg, a longtime history teacher at Shaker Heights High School, died June 5 at the age of 90. Mr. Meshenberg also ran day camps at Lomond and Fernway.

John Rothlisberger, a retired Middle School mathematics teacher, passed away in May.

Nannette Adams, a longtime teacher and guidance counselor at Shaker Heights Middle School, passed away in August after a long illness. Nannette was a 1967 graduate of Shaker Heights High School. Her survivors include her daughter, **Lauren Adams** (SHHS '97), and grandson, **Tyler Binda**, a 9th grader at the High School.



Shaker Heights Schools

A community is known by the schools it keeps.

Around and About the Shaker Schools



Shaker Musicians Travel the World

Over spring break, 70 members of the a cappella choir and orchestra visited China - including Beijing, the Great Wall, and Shanghai - on a performance tour, while 200 members of marching band headed to Turkey to play in Istanbul and other historic sites.



Congratulations to the Class of 2013

More than \$6 million in college scholarships, high SAT scores, and a slew of awards in academics, the arts, and athletics -- these are just some of the many accomplishments of the Shaker Class of 2013.

[A Warm Welcome Back for Shaker Staff](#)



Greeted by students, parents, and the High School marching band, Shaker employees started the year with an all-staff convocation. Go to www.shaker.org for a wonderful photo gallery of the opening day staff convocation...including photos of Dr. Hutchings' kindergarten teacher, who addressed the gathering.



Follow Us on Twitter

Keep up while you're on the go. Follow the School District [@ShakerSchools](https://twitter.com/ShakerSchools) and Superintendent Hutchings [@DrHutchings](https://twitter.com/DrHutchings) for timely reminders, news, and views.

Just for Fun!

THE JOB HUNT

1. My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.
2. Then I worked in the woods as a Lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.
3. After that, I tried being a Tailor, but wasn't suited for it -- mainly because it was a sew-sew job.
4. Next, I tried working in a Muffler Factory, but that was too exhausting.
5. Then, tried being a Chef - figured it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.
6. Next, I attempted being a Deli Worker, but anyway I sliced it.... couldn't cut the mustard.
7. My best job was a Musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy.
8. I studied a long time to become a Doctor, but didn't have any patience.
9. Next, was a job in a Shoe Factory. Tried hard, but just didn't fit in.
10. I became a Professional Fisherman, but discovered I couldn't live on my net income.
11. Managed to get a good job working for a Pool Maintenance Company, but the work was just too draining.
12. So then I got a job in a Workout Center, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.
13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a Historian - until I realized there was no future in it.
14. My last job was working in Starbucks, but I had to quit because it was the same old grind.
15. So, I tried **RETIREMENT** and found I'm perfect for the job! --- and I'm loving it!

Senior Shakerites,

We need your email addresses!

In order to save on paper, postage, and labor it would benefit our organization to begin electronic distribution of the *Senior Shakerite Newsletter* to those of you who are online. Information will be used solely for the purpose of communications with our members. Please send your email address to dawoim@earthlink.net. Thanks!

Name : _____

Home Address: _____

School building served: _____

Email address: _____

_____ I would prefer to continue receiving mailed copies with abbreviated news and luncheon reservation information only.

_____ Please deliver my newsletter via email.

Comments: _____

The Officers and Committee Chairs

Don Coffee, President – 330-650-1402

Jerry Graham, Treasurer (pay luncheons and dues)

12154 Waywood Dr., Twinsburg, OH 44087 jrg574@adelphia.net

Dottie Bruggeman, Secretary – dbruggeman1@hotmail.com

Donna Brittain, Newsletter Editor – dawoim@earthlink.net

Ellen Stepanian, Programs – elns@windstream.net

Vicki Griminger, bgsu73@aol.com and

Adrienne Geszler, ageszler@roadrunner.com – Mailing

Anyone who has membership in a club or would like to suggest a location that we might use as a future luncheon site, please contact Ellen Stepanian.

If you do not wish to continue receiving copies of the Senior Shakerite, please let us know. You can email Donna Brittain at dawoim@earthlink.net .

Senior Shakerites

15600 Parkland Drive

Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120