

LOOK

June – August 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

JUNE - Register for State Conference – Page 7

- All Nominees for State Officers, Group II President-elect becomes President, Vice President for Public Policy, Treasurer
- 1 Maryland FCE Board Meeting, 10:00 AM. Montgomery County Extension Office
- 12 FCE Blanket Making, 10 AM – 8 PM. Extension Office Garage

JULY

- 4 Happy 250th Birthday America
Extension Office Closed
- 20 - 24 National FCE Conference, Florence KY.
Registration at www.NAFCE.org
- 31 FCE Blanket Making Day, 10 AM – 3 PM. Extension Office Garage



AUGUST

- 1 **NEWSLETTER** deadline - send items to Editor
- 3 Maryland FCE Board Meeting, 10:00 AM Montgomery County Extension Office
- 13 Set up Montgomery County Fair Booths 10 AM
- 14 - 22 All Day 77th Annual Montgomery County Fair – “Barn in the USA”
- 20 – Sept. 7th Maryland State Fair, Timonium, MD (weekends)
- 25 Montgomery County FCE Executive Board Meeting – 10:00 AM (reference room)

Newsletter Deadline: August 1

Send all articles, Bulletin Board items, recipes, address changes and trivia for the newsletter to: Jean Purich at jcpurich@cs.com.



SEPTEMBER - COLLECT DUES

- All CHARACTER COUNTS![®] Essay and Artwork Contest starts – “Responsibility” National Literacy Month
- 4 FCE Blanket Making Day, 10 AM – 8 PM. Extension Office Garage
- 7 Extension Office Closed (Labor Day)
- 8 Montgomery County Association Meeting, 9:45 AM Refreshments: Lunch Bunch. Install 2027 Officers
- “Interesting Places in Montgomery County” by Ralph Buglass, Montgomery History
- 12 Blue Grass on the Farm
- 14 Maryland FCE Board Meeting, 10:00 AM Montgomery County Extension Office
- 17 Set-up for Yard Sale (15500 Gallaudet Ave, Silver Spring), 9 AM
- 18 - 20 Yard Sale (rain date September 26 - 27)
- 28 FCE Blanket Making Day, 10 AM – 3 PM. Extension Office Garage

SAVE THE DATE

MARYLAND FCE CONFERENCE

Arrive on Sunday, October 11th for some preconference fun and continue through mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 13th. Register early if you want to attend the private cruise on the Choptank River. Limited seating. See info on page 2 and registration on page 7.

Check out the WEB with MDAFCE www.mdafce.org

Send newsletters, calendars, information and calendar updates for the web page to Libby Wade at dunade@aol.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As summer approaches, we will have higher temperatures and there will be lots of outdoor activities to do. The daylight hours are the longest of the year. Some of the things that I love to do and watch are: beach picnics, soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and golf. Mostly, I follow water sports. These include water skiing, swimming, surfing, and the Olympics - every four years.

The next Olympics will be in Los Angeles, CA from July 14 to July 30, 2028. In Paris 2024, the United States won 126 medals. They included: 40 gold, 44 silver, and 42 bronze for a total of 126. Some of which are: US women – bronze - basketball; US men – silver - archery; US women – gold - gymnastics; US women – silver - artistic swimming; Swim marathon race relay mixed - bronze; US men 100m- bronze.

I hope everyone supports our members of the Olympic Team.

And don't forget the annual Maryland FCE conference coming in October. Be sure to get more information in the Program Notes by Kathie Mack.

Have a great summer.

Libby Wade, President
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"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." – Rabindranath Tagore

"No one has ever become poor by giving." – Anne Frank

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

Our public policy has been on a steady march towards regression since the current administration took office. The proverbial bull in the china shop has pushed its way through, breaking as many institutions, precedents, laws, core values, and basic human decency as it can reach, as fast as it can manage. The word that keeps coming to mind for all the seemingly unrelated policy actions of the past year-and-a-half is patterns. Seen individually, everything comes off as not thought out well. The firing of so many government workers in so many agencies. Then seeing how essential many were and trying to hire them back. The firing of all the independent inspectors, watchdogs, and the mining of American citizens' private data in Social Security, the IRS, and Medicare. Then seeing how the pattern I am talking about is the consistent tearing down and going backwards in time to an era in which civil rights did not apply equally to all Americans, when race determined how one was treated at the voting place, employment venues, education opportunities, home ownership, etc. We have seen the gutting of Section 2, of the 1965 Civil Rights Voting Act. The government is trying to federalize state elections, essentially telling us which citizens can vote.

This is just a small piece of the pattern I am describing. The attacks on the Constitution, immigration as a process in general, tariffs, trade wars, the debunking of our friendships and foreign alliances, fuel and gasoline prices, the unexplained Iran war, the seeming support for the inhumane treatment of Gaza's population during that "conflict", the lack of support for Ukraine being invaded by Russia, etc. Then add the Epstein Files and the weaponization of the Justice Department...as described, at the beginning, the many public policy actions since January 2025, show a pattern of "disjointedness" with not being thought out well. But the very disjointedness is part of a pattern of distraction. Keeping everyone's attention diverted as you push forward the agenda of tearing down the barriers that protect and defend each citizen's rights and privileges under the Constitution. The midterms are the first goal of this tear down. The ballroom, arch, and Kennedy Center are just minor diversions. The right to freely vote is on the line. What other patterns do you see?

Debra Rausch, VP for Public Policy
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PROGRAM NOTES

MARYLAND FCE CONFERENCE



The 2026 Maryland FCE State Conference will again be held on Kent Island on the Chesapeake Bay. Rooms are reserved at the Holiday Inn Express, 1020 Kent Narrows Road, Grasonville MD 21638.

The programs being developed will include a river cruise, interesting speakers, musical entertainment, and the opportunity to walk and sit along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Breakfast is included for those who stay at the hotel. Lunch and dinner will be included in your registration package. You may want to arrive on Sunday, October 11th for a two-hour cruise out of Denton MD on the Choptank River (sign up early — only 16 places available!) and Chesapeake Bay cuisine in a local restaurant.

The official conference program will begin with registration at 10:00 AM on Monday, October 12th, and will continue through mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 13th. Confirmed programs and activities include:

Pre-conference tour: The River City Cruise Co., of Denton MD will take 16 of us on Sunday, October 11th for a private 2-hour cruise on the Choptank River. We will meet at 1:30 at **10282 River Landing Rd, Denton, MD 21629** <https://www.rivercitycruise.com/> After the cruise we will meet for dinner at Fisherman's Inn (Kent Narrows) and have evening games back at the hotel.

- Monday evening: Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante will celebrate the maritime history, characters, and traditions of the Chesapeake Bay. Whether they sing about the past or the present, the Bay or beyond, Meneely and van Sante delight in sharing their music, merriment and (sometimes) mayhem.
- Patrick Keegan from Maryland Public Television will speak. He is executive producer of *Chesapeake Collectibles*, *Destination Maryland*, and *Made in Maryland*.
- Sandy Heiler's presentation *Becoming Americans* will tell of the transition of American colonists from Englishmen - and -women to Americans, starting with an incident in Rockville in 1774.
- *A Visual Tour of NASA Science* will be presented by Mark SubbaRao from the NASA Scientific and

Visualization Studio. (This talk had been scheduled for last year, but the government shutdown put it on hold.)

- Judy Wink's presentations have been such hit at the past two conferences that she has been invited to return to us. Judy is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Grasonville MD.
- Helen DeRoo will direct us in making faces for small dolls and puppets that can be used by children in therapy. The fabric faces can be embroidered or painted with happy faces and non-happy faces for opposite sides of the puppet.
- Awards will be handed out and reports given about the Associated Country Women of the World, the annual meeting of National FCE, and the most recent CHARACTER COUNTS!® contest.

We will conclude the conference with ticket sales of many small bags, as we did last year.

Full registration details are published in this newsletter and will be posted online by June 1st. <http://www.mdafce.org/lwhnews.htm>.

Kathie Mack, MDAFCE Vice President for Programs

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301-270-5367

More information on our Entertainment

Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante began coalescing as a duo in 2015, with Rob offering support on Janie's solo gigs whenever he was in the Washington, D.C. area, where she was living at the time. As a prolific songwriter of all things Chesapeake, Janie was a well-known figure around the mid-Atlantic waterfront, but it was Rob's brilliant guitar work and harmony singing that really pushed her work into the greater realm of the traditional folk world where Rob had already made his mark.

[Video | Meneely & Van Sante](#)



Speedy recovery to Jeanne Gillis who has been under the weather.

Also, to Helen Doman who is having leg and knee problems.

Montgomery County News

Spring Luncheon

FCE Striving for a Better Future

Thirty-three (33) members and friends enjoyed the day. A big thank you to Sandy Heiler who filled in at the last minute (our original speaker came down with the flu couldn't be with us) and telling us about the role Montgomery County played in the War of 1812. Javi Alacron, Annual Fund Manager from Montgomery College attended and read letters from our two scholarship recipients Perla Y Sanchez and Nelly F. Kra.

Attendees donated 61 books for newborns and plants for The Ranch and Laytonsville Veterans Home. We were treated to a delicious lunch, lovely decorations, favors and a fun door prize event.

Thanks to the Burtonsville club for being the hostesses, Sharon Hume for making the name tags and all of you for your effort, attention to details and for your attendance. It was a great day!!!

FCE BLANKET MAKING DAYS

June 12 Friday 10 AM to 8 PM

July 31 Friday 10 AM to 3 PM

September 4 Friday 10 AM to 8 PM

September 28 Monday 10 AM to 3 PM

November 20 Friday 10 AM to 8 PM



We are so pleased to be distributing to Shady Grove and Holy Cross hospitals as well as shelters and other agencies. We can always use yarn and fleece, we do not need fabric, except for kids' prints. Thank you for all the

hard work, time and effort each of you put into continuing this project. Call Kathie at 301-270-5367 for more info.

BACK to SCHOOL SUPPLIES

In July, August and September, we will collect school supplies, (pencils, white glue & glue sticks, rulers, scissors, Crayola crayons-the 16 pack, colored pencils, composition notebooks, **(no filler paper or spiral notebooks)**, socks and gloves (socks all year). Items can be dropped off on blanket days,



our September program meeting, at my house, or with Kathie Mack. Thank you very much for your help. I know the schools and students are very appreciative of these supplies. In the past, supplies have gone to the National Center for Children and Families, Sheppard Pratt, Kennedy Krieger and Title 1 schools.

FAIR BOOTHS

“Barn in the U.S.A.”

August 14 – 22

Planning and working on the **Fair Booths** has begun. If you would like to design a display to present at the Fair, please let me know. We have display boards that you can borrow, or you can design a free style booth. Also, if you can spend some time at the Fair sitting by the booths and talking about FCE, blanket making, etc., please sign up. A sign-up sheet is available.

September Program

September 8

9:45 AM Extension Office

Interesting Places in Montgomery County

with Ralph Buglass from Montgomery history will discuss off the beaten paths in Montgomery County. It is very interesting and you will find new places to visit.

YARD SALE

Set-up Thursday September 17

September 18, 19 and 20

15500 Gallaudet Silver Spring

The tables will be on the front porch starting in August to accept your donations for the yard sale. We will need lots of help with the set-up day on Thursday and for the sale days. This is a major money maker for the scholarship fund. A note of caution – if you are using a box that has been mailed to you, remove the label and black out the UPC code. These boxes are used when we pack up the leftover items and then go to other places. We do not know who sees the address on the boxes.

Have a safe and healthy summer. Hope to see you soon.

Jeanne Purich

President, MC FCE
jepurich@cs.com

CHARACTER COUNTS!®



We are proud to congratulate Ruth Kuate from St. Francis International School on winning first place in the county and state in the 2026 Family and Community Education Essay and Artwork Contest. This annual contest for fourth-graders was created by CHARACTER COUNTS!® to emphasize the six pillars of character — trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. Respect is the pillar chosen for the 2026 contest.

Second and third place in the county essay and artwork contest were also won by fourth graders from St. Francis International School — Heyabel Simon and Samuel Belay. Three fourth graders from St. John Evangelist School won honorable mention — Aryan Gomes, Andrew McCombe, and Theodore White. A video about Ruth’s winning essay may be viewed at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17SS_9knBvflqmjU3JaCfaHIEhUdoz7GD/view?usp=share_link

Kathie Mack, MDAFCE Vice President for Programs

THE HOMEMAKERS’ CREED

ALL RECITE OR READ

TOGETHER: The Whys and Wherefores of this organization shall be generally to make the world a better place in which to live, by eating more food so we don’t throw away as much. To maintain the highest standard of living possible in our homes. To place comfort above service by always wearing low-heeled shoes and loose clothing, to lose our self during Black Friday shopping, to arrive at our meetings in time for dessert, and to promote a better way of life by shopping at thrift stores. May we have pride in our role as homemakers and family and community educators and may our bellies be filled with food as we serve.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of May 1, 2026, we have 84 members, including **three new members!** A huge thank you to all who sponsored our new members and to all who renewed their membership. Please welcome our new members: Lori Barber, Mary Reeves, and Amanda Masko. Our 2026 membership event has officially ended. We will be starting our 2027 membership drive in August. Remember that for every new member you sponsor in 2027, you receive a Star Pin **PLUS** a chance for you and your new member to attend the 2027 Maryland FCE conference for free. What a great deal! The next few months are a great time to introduce potential new members to our organization. Remember we have an information “postcard” that you can give to a potential member so they will have a information at their fingertips.

Have a great summer!

Jeanne Gillis, Membership Chairman
jeannegillis2326@gmail.com

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD



Prior to our Spring Luncheon meal, we took a walk around the parking lot to celebrate Women Walk the World. This is a fund raiser for the Associated County Women of the World – Rural Women fund.

To all ACWW members of all walks of life and wherever you live, in remote areas or not, your environment may limit you, but your potential is not limited. Therefore, stand tall and support one another. Celebrate your strengths. ...Difficulty does not define you. Resilience does.

Check out acww.uk.org for more information.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SEASON



Nostalgic

Everyone loves [a throwback](#)—and doing these summer activities that you may have loved as a kid will bring some joy to your summer.

- See a movie at the drive-in.
- Walk on the boardwalk and listen to the boards creak under your feet.
- Blow bubbles.
- Play tag, hopscotch, or one of your favorite childhood games.
- Ride a roller coaster.
- Play miniature golf.
- Win a prize at the fair.
- Catch fireflies at night.
- Build a sandcastle at the [beach](#).
- Cruise around town on a bike, roller skates, or a skateboard.
- Do a cannonball into the pool.
- Enjoy the view from the Ferris Wheel.
- Run through the sprinklers.
- Have a water balloon fight.
- Help your kids host a lemonade stand.
- Tie-dye a t-shirt.
- Climb a tree.
- Build a fort (indoors or out!)
- Jump in puddles after a rainstorm.
- Wear cut-off jeans and flip-flops.
- Play Marco Polo.

Eat and Drink

With all that gorgeous summer produce out there, there's plenty to enjoy and savor (and either grow your own or pick at the farm). But don't forget to indulge in a few more decadent summertime treats—like s'mores or frozen cocktails.

- [Eat a whole lobster](#) with your hands.
- Pick berries and peaches at a farm.

- Make pesto.
- Buy a Creamsicle from the neighborhood ice cream truck.
- Roast marshmallows over a fire and make s'mores.
- Make lemonade from scratch.
- Eat corn on the cob.
- Sip a cold glass of iced tea.
- Eat a slice of watermelon.
- Buy fresh produce at the farmers' market.
- Mix up a pitcher of sangria.
- Eat a soft-serve vanilla ice cream cone with rainbow sprinkles.
- Dig your own clams.
- Make [iced coffee](#).
- Make [homemade ice cream](#).
- Have a [barbecue](#).
- Eat cucumber sandwiches.
- Plant a mini herb garden.
- Drink a [frozen cocktail](#). (Add a fun umbrella to it, too!)
- Eat something fried at a carnival or fair.
- Make your own ice pops.
- Make a fruit pie.
- Go to a local food festival.
- Host an old-fashioned ice cream social.
- Grill everything (including dessert!).
- Host a dinner party on your back patio.

Relax

Those warm summer days are custom-made for taking time to chill. Add a few of these relaxing summer activities to your must-do list this summer.

- Nap in a hammock.
- Have a picnic in the park.
- Sit on a porch swing.
- Stargaze while lying in the grass.
- Watch the sunset from a beach.
- Dangle your feet off a dock.
- Bring a blanket and picnic at an outdoor concert.
- Watch the clouds go by.
- Go river tubing.
- Go to a Renaissance fair or a Shakespeare in the Park performance.
- Paint rocks to decorate your garden.
- Lounge under a tree and read a book.
- Watch your favorite movies set in the summer.

Direction to Annual Conference

Holiday Inn Express Kent Island

1020 Kent Narrows Road, Grasonville, MD 21638

Phone: 410-857-4454

From West:

From the beltway, take **50** east across the Bay Bridge*; take Exit **41**, head **right** on the ramp for **MD-18** toward **Kent Narrows West**; Turn **left** onto **MD-18/Main St** toward **Piney Narrows Rd/MD-18/Main St**; Turn **left** onto **Kent Narrow Way N** (Road name changes to **Kent Narrow Way**): Turn **left** into parking lot.



Maryland Association for
Family and Community Education
15500 Gallaudet Avenue
Silver Spring Maryland 20905

