



BCREA Newsletter



April, 2009

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

Number 197

Ghost Tours Popular at Stranahan House

If history won't bring in crowds to your museum, mention ghosts! At least this seems to be the case at Ft. Lauderdale's Stranahan House ever since the inauguration of their "Ghost Tours," according to **Marlene Schotanus**, Director of Education for the Victorian home of **Frank and Ivy Stranahan**. The idea began when a local "ghost team" asked to investigate the house. Sun-Sentinel reporter **Brittany Wallman** wrote about this and piqued the



BCREA members who are also docents at Stranahan House include (l - r) Doris Cotnoir, Frances Smoot and Madeline Martin, pictured above with Marlene Schotanus, 2nd from right.

interest of the public. In 2003 the October "Ghost Tours" began. The Riverboat Ghost Tours were added more recently. In a Comcast video **Marlene** showed, one segment featured several docents, including BCREA member **Doris Cotnoir**, commenting on the unexplained "presences" in the house. At one time an investigator using a tape recorder asked, "Did anyone ever fall in this place?" And a tiny voice answers, "Me!" Part of the lore of the house does include the sudden unexplained death of a little girl. At times, people have felt the presence of **Ivy** and smelled the lilac perfume for which she was known. For additional information, visit their website at <http://www.stranahanhouse.org/>.

April 2 Meeting

Time: 12:00

Place: Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Ft. Lauderdale
(behind War Memorial Auditorium)



Program: **Dr. Murray Todd**
Memory Disorder Specialist



Bring to meeting:

- Dish to share
- \$10.00 for FREF raffle ticket
- Service Hours Reports
- New 5th Grade book
- Campbells labels
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- General Mills labels
- Coupons for our troops
- Old eyeglasses & Cellphones
- Magazines for VA patients

Doris Cotnoir Is BCREA Volunteer of the Year



By Darcy Drago

Doris Cotnoir, BCREA's nominee for District 10 Volunteer of the Year, has been a member of BCREA and FREA since her retirement four years ago. She serves on our unit's membership, retirement and telephone committees and

delivers items donated by our members to Kidz in Distress. Doris has a great love of children. She serves on the board of the Friends of the Library doing fundraising to purchase computers, books and other materials for the children's library and she works with three-year-olds at her church, serves as a docent at Stranahan House and provides assistance to AIDS patients and their families at the Povorello Center. Throughout the year she helps out at community events such as Christmas on Las Olas. Congratulations, Doris!

President's Corner

Do you know that BCREA was founded in 1965 with a core membership of 15 teachers? Our founding President, **Edna Jacobs**, {1965-1968} died in June 2004. This information made me think about what BCREA is like today. Today we have a membership of 320 members. We are still helping high school seniors by funding scholarships for Education majors. We have scholarship drives all year long to achieve this goal. We have a Board made up of officers, and committee chairpersons. What I find interesting is that all of us work together either by helping each other on a project or giving constructive criticism in order to move the project in a different direction. Members that I would like to highlight and thank are: **Doris Emmett, Darcia Drago, Bev Hoppe, and Frances Smoot**; their hard work and constant encouragement have helped to keep BCREA running smoothly. In short, I like BCREA for two reasons. One reason is how positive the organization is about education in Broward County, and the second is the optimism by which our membership pursues our making a difference for our members and the students of Broward County. What a great group we have! Happy Spring! *Linda.*



Vice-President's Corner

The guest speaker at the April meeting will be Dr. Maury Todd of the Memory Disorder Center at Imperial Point Medical Center. He was one of the presenters at the district 10 meeting in September. Dr. Todd recommends many exercises that increase the brain function. He believes in trying old habits done a new way. An example is brushing your teeth with the opposite hand that you would normally use.

Anyone with an idea for next years programs get in touch and we'll look into your idea.

Margarite



Community Service

954-977-7247

Chairman: Darcia Drago



Thanks to all of you who reported your community service hours for the year. Our annual report has gone in to FREA.

New project!

At our May meeting we will collect books and magazines for VA patients. These should not be war-related nor be of a religious nature.

We will continue to collect eyeglasses, cell phones, aluminum pull tabs, Labels for Education and coupons, so bring them to our April and May meetings and continue to save them over the summer.

If you are interested in learning more about the Junior Achievement Ambassador Program, call 954-788-8422.

Darcy

Literacy

954-584-8719

Chairman: Rosetta Watkins



Fifth Grade Essay Contest - WE HAVE A WINNER!

Thanks to our very astute judges (**Kathlyn Barno, Linda Marable, Robin Reinhold and Jean Childers**) we have the winner of the Fifth Grade Essay Contest on "My Experiences/Relationship With a Grandparent or Grandparent Figure."

Atalya Santos, a student in Mrs. Quesada's fifth grade class at **Riverland Elementary School** is the winner.

Her essay is titled "**My Grandfather's Garden.**" Congratulations, Atalya! We would like to thank all of the participants (Students, Teachers and Principals) for all of their efforts.

Book Donations

I am asking for donations of new books, appropriate for a fifth grader, to give to the 63 participants in the essay contest, each of whom will also receive a certificate. Please bring books to the March and April meetings.

Phase two of this years Literacy project is to collect used books to give to an after school program for children in kindergarten thru fifth grade. Please bring in any books that your children, grandchildren or maybe great grandchildren have out grown or tired of for this worthy project. We will collect these books thru May.

Rosetta



Cultural Affairs

954-753-1258

Chairman: Michele Ed-



Have you attended an Art Activity this season??? If not, there are two "free admission" THIRD THURSDAYS left at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale for this season:

April 16 and May 21.

With You I Want to Live: Gordon Locksley Collection will be on display starting

March 15, 2009

Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz Collection will be on display starting

April 19, 2009

Of course there are always the ONGOING EXHIBITS:

**The Spectacle of Life:
The Art of William Glackens;**

The Indigo Room or Is Memory Water Soluble? and **CoBrA**

(an acronym for the artists native cities: Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam)

For more information go to www.moaf1.org or call 954-525-5500.

A HUGE THANKS TO DIANE TEXTER AND MADELINE MARTIN FOR TAKING ON THE CREATION OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY DISPLAY!!!!

Michele

Health & IPS

954-581-4731

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno



Our blood drive is complete. Thank you for your response to our call. Besides protecting yourself you have helped some deserving students further their education. Information about obtaining blood in the hospital is found on the back of your membership card so always keep it in a safe place.... If you wish, you may place your cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry; however, FCC regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. You can register on line at www.DoNotCall.gov or call toll free at 1-888-382-1222...Spring is coming and we usual think of spring cleaning but sometimes we

find it hard to part with some of our "stuff". here are some tips mentioned in the AARP Magazine to help us cope with the departure: Photo-graph or video tape your belongings before giving them away. Record your memory of each one and then you can distribute them to the children. Give your belongings to charity instead of selling them to strangers. That can be more satisfying and you get a tax deduction. Start small. Tackle one room at a time and don't leave until it is finished. Other wise you'll get distracted and end up shuffling the same clutter from one part of the house to another. Don't forget, this is the month the tax man cometh. *Kathlyn*



FREF

Chairman: Frances Smoot
954-733-3385



A reminder for everyone to please purchase the FREF tickets for the Future Teachers Fund. Tickets are \$10.00 each which gives you a chance to win the **Grand Prize:** a 42" Plasma Samsung HDTV (value: \$949.97)! **1st Prize** is a Nuvi Portable

GPS (value: \$329.97) **2nd Prize:** A Canon Power-shot Digital camera (value: \$249.97); or **3rd Prize:** a 19" LCD HDTV (value: \$249.97) The drawing will be held at the FREA State Assembly in May in St. Petersburg.

Thanks. **Framces**

FREA Tours

Arline Ziller, FREA Travel Coordinator
969 SE 6 Terrace Pompano Beach, FL
Home: 954-781-4445 Email: arinez@juno.com



Remember to call or e-mail me if you're looking for a nice trip. Every trip you book with me benefits the FREF. **13-night Transatlantic Eastbound cruise** departing Fort Lauderdale **April 12, 2009** for Ponta Delgado, Azores; Madeira, Portugal; Vigo, Spain; Southampton, England: includes such special amenities as ice skating shows, mini-golf course, pool deck and spas. (There are now 34 people on this cruise...join us) Hurry! Don't miss the boat! **Discover Sedona 7 days** tour begins in Scottsdale, AZ October 9, 2009 and includes traveling on the historic Grand Canyon Railway and the Verde Canyon Railroad through fantastic canyons and a trolley sightseeing tour to the famous Chapel of the Holy Cross. Be sure to include your name, address & phone number when requesting information .

Arline Z

BCREA Officers....

President

Linda Horton
954-463-0192

Vice-President

Margarite Falconer
954-524-2938

Secretary

Madeline Martin
954-973-6509

Treasurer

Doris Emmett
954-772-8681

Membership...

954-525-8503

Chairman: Susan Lochrie



Membership Dues Now Being Collected for 2009 - 2010

Dues for the 2009-2010 club year may be paid at meetings or mailed using the form below to note any changes to your personal information.

Annual dues are \$45.00. BCREA will forward the state dues of \$30.00 to FREA. You will receive a membership card from the FREA and your name will be on the Broward County Retired Educators Association mailing list and listed in the BCREA Directory.

The membership year extends from July 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Reminder: Members who have Pioneer Insurance Medi-Gap Supplemental Insurance must pay their dues by June 1, 2009.

Broward County Retired Educators Association 2009 - 2010 Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SS # : XXX - XX- _____ (last 4 digits only) Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Date Retired: _____ Retired From: _____

Position: _____

Dues: \$45.00 Donation for Scholarships: \$ _____ Total enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to **BCREA** and mail to: Mrs. Susan Lochrie
PO Box 30533, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303

Member Spotlight

Recently I called my 8th grade math teacher **Mr. William Gaffney** who is a BCREA Life Member and will celebrate his 97th birthday on April 8. He was reminiscing about his long career in education. Bill's first teaching job was in 1930 at a one-room school in Kentucky with students in 1st - 8th grades. He was 18 years old with one year of college. In 1935 he finished his BS degree at Eastern Kentucky College and in a few years was a school principal in Kentucky. In 1951 he moved to Broward County and taught 8th grade

Passages



*Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club
(members over 85!)*

William Gaffney 4/08
Anna Tarullo 4/08



Thinking of You....

Ed Elder
Ruth Hooper
Jim Morris

math at Naval air Junior HS until he could obtain a position as a history teacher. He became History Department Chairman at Sunrise Middle School, then took the job of Textbook Manager for the county Office until he retired in 1975. Bill's first wife Dorothy died in 1971 and his second wife Margaret passed away in October, 2008. He lives in NE Ft. Lauderdale, can no longer drive to meetings, but enjoys hearing from old friends. Happy 97th Birthday, Bill!

Susan Lochrie

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



954-486-2728 • Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946

Bring this to our next meeting or mail it to:
Darcia Drago
 4346 Carambola Circle North
 Coconut Creek, FL 33066
 Or E-mail: Darbob2007@aol.com

BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
 (Please Print)

Month _____, 200_____

LITERACY VOLUNTEER HOURS:
 Teaching Sunday School, reading to children/adults; tutoring; helping with testing programs, etc; Includes any activities to promote a more literate America. TOTAL _____

WORKING WITH OUR YOUTH:
 School, tutoring, mentoring, coaching etc. (Persons 25 years of age or younger. TOTAL: _____)

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:
 Church, civic, hospital / hospice, personal help to others (non-relatives), school, drug, ecology / environment. TOTAL: _____

Overlapping categories should be reported in both places.
 GRAND TOTAL: _____

Slate of Officers Announced

At the March meeting, Nominating Committee chairman **Doris Emmett** announced the slate of officers for the 2009 - 2010 Club year. This year's President **Linda Horton** has agreed to serve as President for a second year as has **Margarite Falconer**, this year's Vice-President;



Judy Joseph will once again fill the position of secretary for the coming year and Treasurer **Doris Emmett** has agreed to serve in that position for yet another year. As there were no further nominations from the floor, the slate was accepted by acclamation.



Scholarship Donations

Donor
 Tom & Harriett Drilling
 Elinor Robinson Gaston

In Memory Of
 Les Peterson
 Jerri Oglesby

Unspecified Donations

Susan Barber
 Bettye Brown
 Bobbie Lou David
 Art & Daisy Kennedy
 Joan P. McCabe
 Wayne & Arline McWhinney
 Gwenith Thompson
 Milton Brantferger
 Doris Cotnoir
 Kathryn Pierce Gaus
 Linda Kay Marable
 Georgia MacVean
 Betty L. Smith
 James Thurston
 Edward J. Weaver

From Treasurer Doris Emmett:
 We will be giving scholarships this May in memory of **Reva Moore, John Lyzott, and Joel Creasy**, and possibly a fourth one not in memory of someone.

If you're as fascinated by ghost stories as I am, you would have liked the program at the March meeting! There were 47 members in attendance who seemed to enjoy **Marlene Schotanus'** stories as much as I did. Winners in the Scholarship Raffle were **Darcy Drago** (\$20), **Bev Hoppe** (\$20) and **Nancy Howell** (\$10). I enjoyed that too!! Happy Easter, Happy Passover and Happy Arbor Day! And, we also have Earth Day on April 22 - a day to celebrate the environment. The first Earth Day was organized in 1970 to promote the ideas of ecology, encourage respect for life on earth, and highlight growing concern over pollution of the soil, air, and water. Earth Day is now

Bev's Bytes.....



observed in 140 nations with outdoor performances, exhibits, street fairs, and television programs that focus on environmental issues. We're still thinking of **Ed Elder** and **Jim Morris** who are still having health problems and our condolences to **Ruth Hooper** who recently lost a family member. If you know any news about members - near or far away - please let me know. And that's the last byte for April!

Bev



From the Internet.....



Yesterday I was at my local Wal-Mart buying a large bag of Purina Dog Chow for my loyal pet, Biscuit the Wonder Dog, and was in the checkout line when the woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had, an elephant? So since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IV's in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)



Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off a curb to sniff an Irish Setter's butt and a car hit us both.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard. Wal-Mart won't let me shop there anymore.

Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say.



Seen at the
March Meeting

BCREA NEWSLETTER

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