



Volunteers Wanted - Whenever It's Most Convenient

When BCREA member **Rita Weiss's** mother had to put her dad in a nursing home, she had to pay \$3000 up front and apply for Medicaid. When Dad died 3 weeks later, the facility canceled the application for Medicaid without regard to the fact that Mom had had to borrow the \$3000 and needed the funds to repay the loan. She was assisted by **Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** to get her

money back. And this is how Rita became involved with the Ombudsman program and has now

been a volunteer for 2 years. She introduced the speaker of the day **Kathy Mathis** who is a retired nurse and is also a volunteer with the



program. "Ombudsman" is Swedish and means "advocate." The Older Americans Act of 1975 resulted in the program here in Florida which now has over 300 volunteers. Florida is one of the only states which annually evaluates every nursing home, assisted-living facility and adult family care home in the state. The best part of being a volunteer for this

program is that you do not have to make an appointment with a facility to visit. An ombudsman must be admitted at any time of the day or night on any day of the week. By visiting a facility unexpectedly, the ombudsman is more likely to see things as they really are, not as a facility might represent itself with advance notice. They respond to complaints from patients, relatives, neighbors - anyone! In the state, 9,000 complaints were investigated last year.

Training involves a 2-day classroom experience plus at least 3 visits with an experienced ombudsman. To become a volunteer, call 954-597-2266 or 888-831-0404 or visit <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>

Important Upcoming Dates!

December 1 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am

Place: Deicke Auditorium

Address: 5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: Holiday Music by "The NOTE-ables"

December 15: Board Meeting, 11:30 am
Arline Ziller's home

Bring to meeting:

Potluck Dish to Share

Blankies & Pillows	Magazines & books
Campbells labels	Aluminum pull-tabs
General Mills labels	Coupons for our troops

December 21: Happy Hanukkah

December 25: Merry Christmas

December 26: Happy Kwanzaa



Mark Your 2012 Calendar:

BCREA

Invites You and Your Guests
to our

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Social Hour: 11:30

Lunch served: 12 noon

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road

Tickets will be sold at the
December and January meetings
or

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 5.

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

Membership Chairman **Susan Lochrie** announced at the November meeting that we have 45 new members. To you, our new members - welcome to a group of really awesome people!

Don't forget to get your volunteer hours to **Darcy Drago**. The number of volunteer hours is calculated by the state into dollars and it really goes into the millions. A check is usually presented to the state at our state assembly for that amount. We give A LOT with our time and energy.

There is an old saying about stress: If stress burned calories we'd all be a size 2. Don't let stress take the fun out of the holidays for you. Take the pills, eat correctly and refrain from taking on too many projects. Spend time on yourself and family. Sometimes it seems like we're running around like chickens with our heads cut off. We wear ourselves out to the point that there isn't any JOY left for us. Choose the things you really want to do. Let the other projects fall away.

Many thanks for all you do. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and Be Full of Good Cheer.

Love to you all ,

Margarite



From the Vice-President..

The "NOTE-ables" are coming in December! This chorus of women from John Knox Village will be singing some old favorites as well as some holiday songs for our December program. The director of this group is the dynamic **Ms. Harriet Mertz**. They call Ms. Mertz "The Diva" because she takes center stage with her music, drama and show business sparkle. She is a music director, professional voice instructor, singer, pianist and actress. Ms. Mertz admits that not all of her members have good voices but she teaches them voice control and focusing the sound. Her method of teaching voice shows how good tone quality is produced. She said, "It begins and ends with correct breathing which emanates from the diaphragm." The "NOTE-ables" rehearse every week and the women say they come for what they call their "fix." This will be a great meeting to sit back, relax, and enjoy the music as well as a chance to network with your peer group, receive updated information on what is happening in Tallahassee, and have a fabulous lunch.

Barbara



Community Service / Directories

Chairman: **Darcia Drago**
954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Community Service

Our donation of food and men's clothing was gratefully received by the Cooperative Feeding Program/LifeNet4families. Thanks to those of you who gave so generously to this organization that helps so many of the less fortunate in our community. The need is especially great at this time of year.

Directories

2011-2012 directories will be distributed at our December meeting. Copies will be mailed to shut-ins and to those members who live out-of-county. Have a happy and healthy holiday season. See you next year!

Darcy



Health & I+PS

Chairman: **Kathlyn Barno**
954-581-4731 BB9214@aol.com



'Tis the season to be jolly. It is also the season to be extra careful while going about our daily lives. Along with the winter visitors come the unsavory people looking for an easy buck. They are aware that we are shopping for gifts and have with us credit and debit cards and perhaps large amounts of cash. Hold your purses and wallets close. Don't be a victim of robbery or identity theft. Don't leave packages visible in your automobile or put objects in the trunk and walk off to do more shopping. The thief is waiting for you to leave so he can

break into your car. When you put packages in your car, drive away.

Sometimes the holidays bring on stress. To eliminate stress and keep healthy and alert, it is important to get a good night's sleep. Try to avoid large meals and food with lots of sugar right before bedtime. Coffee and other caffeine drinks late at night can interfere with sleep also. Try to have a regular sleep pattern for going to bed and awakening every day.

Take care. Have fun. Happy holidays. See you next year.

Kathlyn

Passages

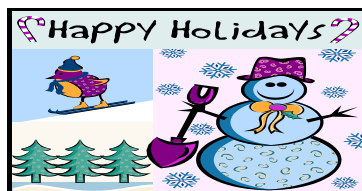


*Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club
(members over 85!)*

Elizabeth Freeman 12/1
Lillian Rahming 12/3
Sara Pettis 12/16
Jean Funk 12/18
Alzora Simmons 12/18
Panchitta Chisholm 12/19
Caroline Hooper 12/20
Toni Merton 12/20
Dorothy Barringer 12/22
Kay Vetro 12/23
Elizabeth Johnson 12/26



Thinking of You
Kathlyn Barno
Myken Brady
Linda Horton
Frances Smoot



BCREA Officers...

President
Marguerite Falconer
954-524-2938
Vice-President
Barbara Morningstar
954-781-4356
Secretary
Josephine Walker
954-742-2430
Treasurer
Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343

Pat Schifini gave a really thought-provoking Thought for the Day at the November meeting, pointing out that we should be thankful for our troubles - as it is through these challenges that we truly grow. **Carol Roland** created a beautiful fresh fall flower arrangement which was won by **Josephine Walker** in the monthly 50/50. Just in case you think men can't cook, be sure to



Ben's

Bytes...



taste **Michael Kogan's** culinary contributions! This month he brought a pineapple upside down cake; last month, his own recipe ginger cookies. Yay, Michael! Condolences to **Linda Horton** whose sister Heather Holding died last month after a courageous battle against



ALS. Get-well wishes to **Frances Smoot** who had knee surgery and to **Myken Brady** who has foot problems. Best wishes to **Toni Merton** who will turn 90 on December 20! Attendance was 78 this month. Winners of the 50/50 were **Evelyn Morris** (\$20); **Diane Texter** (\$20); and **Renee Rubin** (\$10) - for the 2nd month! And that's the last byte for December! *Ben*



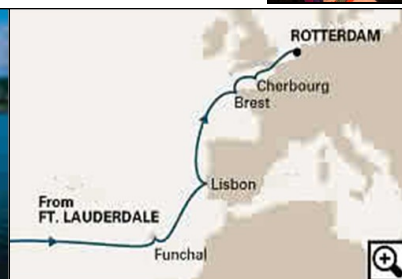
FREA Travel...

Chairman: Arline Ziller
954-781-4445 Email: arlinez@juno.com



ENJOY HOLLAND AMERICA'S MANY AMENITIES

Your home at sea on this beautiful ship will spoil you with great comforts and fantastic food as well as great entertainment. Explore world history, cul-



Ship: Ms. Rotterdam Departure: April 17, 2012 From: Ft. Lauderdale
Ports of Call: Fort Lauderdale, Funchal (Madeira), Portugal; Lisbon, Portugal; Brest, France; Cherbourg, France; Rotterdam, The Netherlands

tures, wildlife and geography with the travel guide; learn new dances, join book discussions coordinated by book club leaders; Digital Workshop; movies; live entertainment; giant LED screen on deck for open-air movies—luxury galore. Your hostess is Arline Ziller. Call me for Cruise prices. Insurance is highly recommended. You can go online to www.hollandamerica/rotterdam.com transatlantic cruises for more information or contact me. With the short time left to book before prices escalate as time is running out for this sailing at this great price, it is important to reserve now.

RESERVE YOUR STATEROOM NOW

Please include the following when you contact me: full name as on your passport, birth-date, complete home address, telephone number and e-mail address, persons traveling together; passport # and exp. date and emergency contact (name, email and telephone #). I will send you a sheet requesting this information. You will enjoy yourselves while supporting the FREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. REMEMBER: Our travel program is open to everyone. I look forward to your supporting our program while benefitting from the special price. **DON'T MISS THE SHIP....**

Arline

Literacy

Chairman: Rosetta Watkins
954-584-8719 mamarowat@aol.com



Fifth Grade Essay Contest

We have submitted our renewal application to the Superintendent's Screening Committee.

Hopefully we will get their approval to distribute the information to teachers.

Book Donations

The Literacy Committee is still collecting slightly used books to be given to an after school program for children in kindergarten thru fifth grade.

Literacy Hours

Remember to report all of your literacy house. Don't forget to report your hours from our last meeting in May and through the summer.

Rosetta

From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343 Flsun1@comcast.net



Thank you so much to **Bright Star Credit Union** and to the dedication and commitment of **Marguree Larin** for the \$1500 check which supports the printing of the BCREA Newsletter. We so appreciate the support!

Scholarship Donations

Betty Bradshaw
Diane Carr
Linnie Kidd
Julia Penley
Carol Roland
Louis Shelley



Cultural Affairs

Chairman: Michele Edwards
954-849-5512 dramama51@bellsouth.net



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! BCREA needs a new Cultural Activities Chairperson!!!! I am moving and will need someone to take over so our members can continue to enjoy attending cultural events as a group, with a group discount. I'll gladly pass along all contacts I have generated for tickets and the forms I have used to advertise and account for the ticket sales. Let president Margarite Falconer know if you are willing to take over; we'd all appreciate it. In order to complete my obligation to BCREA for 2011-2012, I need to sellout our third and final show no later than the December 1st meeting. That is the last meeting I plan to attend and would love to turn over a completed task. The show is: **THE BIRDS**, A DRAMA/THRILLER **Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2pm** **Mosaic Theatre @ Amer. Heritage** **\$35.05** **ONLY 3 SEATS LEFT!**

Send your check **made payable to BCREA**, to Michele Edwards, 1933 NW 107 Drive, Coral Springs, FL, 33071. Please include a memo on the check or in a separate note indicating your purchase intent: 1, 2 or 3 for *The Birds*. Sincerely grateful for the opportunity to meet and serve the BCREA membership, **Michele**

Membership...

Chairman: Susan Lochrie
954-525-8503 or slochrie@bellsouth.net



RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Remember: Please notify me of your e-mail address changes! You can read the *Newsletter* in vibrant color online.

The BCREA website is <http://browardrea.org>.

The Florida Retired Educators Association's website is at <http://frea.org>, where you can read the FREA Bulletin in color. If you want to receive your FREA Newsletter via email contact Libby@frea.org at the FREA office.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE BCREA MEETINGS. It's a good way to maintain contact with friends.

Please contact me by phone or email if you want to have a membership information packet mailed to anyone.

Remember, urge your friends to check the website at <http://browardrea.org>!

Susan

Welcome New Members

Diane Carr
Gail Goodman
Pris Peck
Diane Raymond

Karen Donn
Henry Graham
Julia Penley
Dianne Sepielli

Bring this to our next meeting or mail it to:
Darcia Drago
 4346 Carambola Circle North
 Coconut Creek, FL 33066

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: _____

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$25.00 each

Entrée choices: Prime Rib of Beef
 Chicken Francaise
 Broiled Salmon Filet

Name _____ Entrée Choice _____

Send a check made out to BCREA

Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to

Marelise LeClerc

615 N. 31 Road

Hollywood, FL 33021

New Member Corner

Mimi Bond



Michael Cassaw

Gail Goodman



Nice smile - no nametag!

Barbara Louisot



Lamont Roberts

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



954-486-2728 • Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946



Pat, Martha and Charles greet everyone

11/03/2011



Sallie organizes lunch



New secretary Josephine reads the minutes



Lizzie and Darcy check the contributions

2011



Dianne wearing fall colors



Darcy gets her food!

Scenes
at the
November
meeting!



We're happy to have
Bruce back!



Evelyn, Mel and Renee won the 50/50! Lucky Renee also was a winner last month!

2011

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Plantation, FL 33317

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- DATED MATERIAL -
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