

Villagers, Under New Leadership, Still Special!



For the 4th time since 2011, the **John Knox Villagers** entertained BCREA with their enthusiastic renditions of old favorites - some adapted for the season. One big change is that BCREA member **Ron Davis** is no longer the director. He retired and turned the reins



over to **Chris Toth**, a native of Cleveland who has worked as a professional musician for most of his life (which incidentally, isn't long enough to qualify for residence at John Knox!). The second change is that the group is

now accompanied by **Elaine MacNamara**, who is also the new director of the **Note-Ables**, the John Knox Women's Chorus. She replaces **Anita Ferguson** who



also retired after many years of service. The group began with "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," followed by "White Christmas," 2 Hanukkah songs: "Song Without Words" and "Hanukkah, O Hanukkah." The final 2 songs were "No Time to Diet" and "Mr. Santa" - a Christmas adaptation of "Mr. Sandman."

BCREA
Invites You and Your Guests
to our
50th Anniversary Scholarship Luncheon
Thursday, February 4, 2016
Social Hour: 11:30
Lunch served: 12 noon
Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35.00 and will be sold at the January meeting. Or you may order them by mail with the coupon on page 5. Deadline for ordering tickets is January 16.

Please make checks out to BCREA and include a Self-Addressed STAMPED Envelope with your order. Door prizes are needed! If you have something to donate, please bring them to the January meeting or let Anne French know.

January 7 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am
Place: Deicke Auditorium
Address: 5701 Cypress Road Plantation
(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)
Program : Dr. Mohsin Jaffer
"The Pearls of Longevity"

Bring to meeting:

- Potluck Dish to Share
- School Supplies
- Door Prize for Luncheon
- Books for Elementary Students
- Boxtops & Labels for Education
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- Coupons for our troops
- Old cell phones & eyeglasses
- Used duffle bags
- Blankies & Pillows




President's Corner

We had such a nice and very merry December meeting. **Judy Edwards** started us off by having us sing our "Golden Anniversary Song" that she composed. Next we were serenaded by the **John Knox Villagers**. They



were wonderful. As we were eating our lunch, **Becky Williams** sang a beautiful holiday song for us. It was such a nice, warm time together. We have fun together but we also get a lot done.



Lillian Small prepared gift

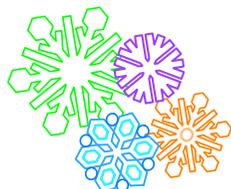
wrapped boxes that represented the different colleges and universities that scholarship money was sent to for our scholarship recipients.



Marissa Hoffman, teacher at Plantation High School, spoke to us about what the scholarships from BCREA and FREF meant to her. She is a math teacher at Plantation High. Each month we are highlighting one of the aspects of what we do as BCREA members.



Next month we will address our connections with the legislature and the laws that they will be considering in 2016. It is important that we know what is being planned for the future.



Echo

From the President-Elect.

Correction!! Last month's *Newsletter* said that **Ron Davis** was the musical director for the **John Knox Villagers**. Ron retired this year and The Villagers are now under the direction of **Christopher Toth**. As usual, The Villagers provided a wonderful assortment of holiday melodies to get us into the holiday spirit.



With the start of a new year, we will focus on our health, and hear from **Dr. Mohsin Jaffer**, a renowned physician affiliated with Senior Medical Associates who specializes in Medical Care for Seniors. Dr. Mohsin is also an associate professor at the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University. His presentation entitled, "**The Pearls of Longevity**," will provide us with ways we can enhance our lifestyle.

Additionally, the Anniversary Committee will provide us with another Golden Moment-- this time on legislative initiatives.



Carol

Literacy

Chairman: **Sandy Lefkowitz**
954-473-9480 Slef123@bellsouth.net



of how important literacy is. Our children must be independent readers and critical thinkers. Being knowledgeable and tolerant of different viewpoints is essential. If we can put books in children's hands, we will help them and help our world. Please do your share. Bring a new or gently used book, any age --preschool to young adult -- to our January meeting. Thanks for helping our youth. **Sandy**

As I write this article, it is two days after the massacre in Redlands, CA. Shocking and sad. It does remind me

Volunteer Services / Directories

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



Volunteer Service

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and that 2016 will be a good year for you and your family.

At our January meeting we will once again collect school supplies for the **Broward Education Foundation Kids in Need Resource Center**. Crayons, markers, pens, pencils, erasers, tape, copy & notebook paper, paper clips, staples, index cards & folders are all on their "wishlist" of needed items.

Thanks to those who donated chewing gum for our troops.

Membership Handbook / Directory



Copies will be available at all of our meetings. Please check your individual listing to make sure that all the information is correct. Thanks to **Bev Hoppe & Susan Lochrie** we now have our birthdays (minus the year) listed.

Darcia

Social Committee

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood
954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



Thank you all for preparing the delicious foods for the December table. We would like to thank **Jean Anderson** and **Jean Gray** for being our BCREA Greeters for this meeting. **Anne French** is continuing the search for a round Pyrex glass lid that vanished from the November meeting. Perhaps it will turn up as holiday meal preparations begin. If you do find the wayward lid, please give Anne a call. Also, a green and white Publix insulated bag was left at the meeting. Please claim this at the next meeting. It will be located at the end of the liquid refreshment table. There were several attendees who brought to the table their "Favorite Holi-



day Recipes" which were

shared and greatly enjoyed, like this cinnamon cranberry sauce by **Juli Patten**. If you would like to participate in this celebration of 50 years of BCREA, the theme for the January table will be "Healthy Recipes." I would like to apologize to **Eleanor Meyer** who I left off the Social Committee list that was found in the new directory. All of the members of the BCREA Social Committee wish you an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Sallie

Passages



Thinking of You
Joanne Davis
Nancy Ruiz
Frances Smoot

Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club
(members over 85!)
Nancy Sword 1/01
Claudia Finlayson, 1/23
Norma Van Buskirk 1/23
Wilise Langford 1/25



Welcome Back
Alexandra Zalis

From the Treasurer

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



Happy Holidays to all! We are winding down collecting dues for the 2015-2016 year. That means that scholarship donations wind down also. If you are not going to the February Luncheon, please consider donating the \$35 that you would have spent on the luncheon to the scholarship fund. Several of you have started that tradition, if you are unable to attend the luncheon. It truly is a kind and meaningful gesture. We just finished sending our checks for the six scholarships for the past year. These scholarships are paid directly to the college or university. Imagine, because of YOUR generosity, we were able to support six students each with a \$1000 scholarship for a total of \$6000! Thanks to the following members below, as they are help-

Donor	In Memory Of
Allegra Murphy	Rev. Eddie Murphy, Jr.
Undesignated Donations	
Myrtle Ford	Kathleen Ginestra
Marva Jenkins	Janice Johnson
Irene LaBelle	Lula Moses
Hal Wulff	



Friendship

Chairman: Julia Penley

561-465-2739

jpgpen581@aol.com



Information Services

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno

954-581-4731

BB9214@aol.com



It's definitely "Tis the season" and all good wishes go out to everyone for a HAPPY HANUKKAH, MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY KWANZAA and most of all a HAPPY NEW YEAR! May the new year bring good health and happiness for all the members of BCREA and their families!! Also, I want to send again Happy Birthday wishes to our 9 December and 4 January birth-days of 85 and older...

Lillian Hearn is reaching that magic number of 85 this month and some others are getting up into their 90's!! We hope their day is a happy and healthy one and the coming new year filled with love and laughter! Once again...please contact me if you know of any member who is ill or has lost a family member, or had some good news, as we want to let them know they are always in our thoughts and prayers. My phone and

email addresses are above. Also, please keep Nancy Ruiz in your prayers as she is scheduled to have, we hope her last, surgery in January after such a long time of health complications. She has been such a faithful member of our group and we wish for her a quick and successful recovery! Happy Holidays Everyone!!!

Julia

BCREA Officers...

President

Echo Heyer

954-523-0661

President-Elect

Carol Roland

954-472-2389

Secretary

Josephine Walker

954-742-2430

Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc

954-962-7343

Welcome to the New Year! This is the time we make all those wonderful promises to do all of the ideal things to improve our health and our lives. Very important to having a good life is to have a good mind that will promote a sense of well-being and happiness. Experts agree that one of the most important factors in achieving a sense of well being is to have friends..

Harvard researchers found that friends can help you lose weight if you need to. People who join a weight loss program with a friend are more likely to complete the program than those who try to go it alone. Australian researchers found that people who had many friends tended to live longer than those with fewer friends. Nurses Health Study found that women who were diagnosed with breast cancer fared better when they had more

friends to lean on.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, elderly women who had a wide network of friends had better cognitive function than those who did not. However, to the contrast, another study found that having many groups of friends on Facebook can be stressful when users try to alter their images with different groups.

If you don't have a circle of friends, make an effort this year to cultivate one. It is



good for you and important to your health. Have a very happy and healthy year.

Kathlyn

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



Bright Star

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BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
(Please Print)

Month _____, 20____

Volunteer hours working with adults _____
(persons who are non-family members;
this also includes literacy hours)

Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

Bring this to our next meeting, e-mail it to me at
dardra@att.net or mail it to me at:

Darcia Drago
4346 Carambola Circle North
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @ \$35.00 each _____

Extra donation for scholarships _____
Total _____

Entrée choices: **Prime Rib of Beef**
Stuffed Chicken **Broiled Salmon**

Name _____ **Entrée Choice** _____

Send a check made out to BCREA
by January 16 (no refunds!)
Include a Self-addressed, STAMPED envelope

to
Anne French
1017 NE 28 Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33334-3722

Bev's Bytes.....

The December meeting was the last one for **Eleanor Meyer** - she's moving to Virginia. We wish her well!

Nancy Ruiz just ordered 5 more copies of the BCREA Cookbook! She has bought about 20 copies - maybe more! She gives them to all her friends!! Even though she has been unable to attend meetings, she's still participating! We were all surprised when **Frances Smoot** didn't appear to do our Thought For the Day - Echo did some sleuthing with the help of **Rosetta Watkins** and discovered she's in the hospital with pneumonia! We knew it had to be serious for Frances not to appear! **Joanne Davis** is also having some health problems. We're thinking of them as well as Nancy Ruiz!



Hospitality Co-Chairman **Pat Schroder** reported that there were 97 members and guests in attendance at the December meeting. In the Scholarship Raffle **Cynthia Johnson** won \$20; those receiving \$10 each were **Julia Penley; Joan Valent** and **Dorothy Moore.**



Happy 2016!

Bev

FREF Extravaganza
Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for a Chance to WIN:
\$500 Cash - 1st Prize
\$300 Cash - 2nd Prize
\$200 Cash - 3rd Prize
\$100 Cash Guaranteed Prize to a winner in District 10:
Dade, Broward or Palm Beach.

Donations are used to fund scholarships for future Florida teachers. Buy Tickets at the January - March meetings or fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Anne French
1017 NE 28 Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33334

Make your check payable to FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation).

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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