

## Effervescent Elaine Captivates Crowd!

"Fort Lauderdale author **Elaine Viets'** *Dead-End Job* series has come a long way since heroine Helen Hawthorne began taking low-paying, off-the-grid jobs as a way to avoid paying alimony to a cheating, gadabout husband," begins a review by the *Sun-Sentinel's* **Oline Cogdill**, of Elaine's *Catnapped* - # 13 in her Dead-End Job mystery series.

Elaine was the speaker at the February 5th Scholarship Luncheon at Tropical



Acres. It took her no time at all to have her audience in stitches! Speaking rapidly,

she related stories about actual people - like the old man on Hollywood beach who wore only a gold chain and a thong! - as well as snippets from several of her books. The title "Dead End Jobs" refers to actual jobs she has had which she translated into her characters' lives. Besides those types of jobs, her website tells us of the more impressive things she's done: "Elaine is a frequent guest on local, national and international TV and radio shows, including the Discovery Channel's *MythBusters*, and Michael Feldman's *Whad'Ya Know?* show. Elaine also hosted the syndicated *Travel Holiday Radio Show*

and was a commentator for the National Public Radio station KWMU. She hosted a primetime television program, *Viets Beat*, for KMOV-TV in St. Louis and won two local Emmys. She was featured on National Public Radio station WLRN with Jeff "Dexter" Lindsay on *Literary Florida*. She was inducted into the St. Louis Media Halls of Fame in 2011. Elaine has served on the national boards of the Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime. She won the Agatha, Anthony and Lefty Awards." And she lives here now! Be sure to visit her website for lots more:

<http://www.elaineviets.com/>

### March 5 Meeting

**Time:** 11:45 am

**Place:** Deicke Auditorium

**Address:** 5701 Cypress Road  
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

**Program:** Dr. Lisa Smith - Stress Relief

**Business:** Election of Officers



### Bring to meeting:

A dish to share  
Service Hours Reports  
New /Gently Used books  
for 5th graders  
Blankies & Pillows  
Labels for Education  
Aluminum pull-tabs  
Coupons for our troops  
Old eyeglasses & Cell phones  
Books & Magazines

### Drago, Smoot Present Memorial Service

Each year at the February Luncheon, BCREA takes time to remember the members who have passed away in the previous year. **Frances Smoot** first read a poem entitled "Courage to Closure."

And then as **Darcy Drago** read each name and told a bit about them, Frances lighted a candle for each one. This year the 12 who were honored were **Elena Cen-**

**trone, Violet Dargan, John Drag, Sr., William Gilmar-tin, Louise Gott, Will Hoppe, Carolyn Johnson, Mildred Jones-Fuce, Helen Lyon, Barbara Leon, Ethel Pappy, and Robert Sulcer.**





## President's Corner

The first Thursday in February is always exciting! It is BCREA's annual Scholarship Luncheon. I attended my first lunch with my friend **Toni Merton** 10 years ago. Besides my **Tedder** friends, I did not know any one else sitting at my table. I did not win any door prizes that year!

Through the years I have become acquainted with more members and have won a few door prizes - 2 cuddly teddy bears for my 2 cuddly grandchildren were my favorites.

The main purpose for our annual luncheon is to increase our funds for scholarships and we have done well in this area. But as I looked around this year, I saw many of us catching up with old friends. Me too! (Winifred)

So, our luncheons are held each February to build up our scholarship fund, enjoy delicious food, win fun prizes, honor those who have passed, and have time to talk to our friends.

By the way, I loved the table centerpieces provided by **BrightStar** and **Marjuree Larin**, but did not win one, loved those who dressed in our Mardi Gras theme, and loved, loved the programs **Bev Hoppe** made.



I am already looking forward to the first Thursday in February, 2016!

*Diane*



## President-Elects' Corner

Our Scholarship Luncheon was so nice. It is the chance to meet and talk to so many of our members. **Margarite Falconer** did a wonderful job of putting it all together.

Our speaker was **Elaine Viets**. I had read several of her books and it was such a nice opportunity to meet the author. Elaine is the winner of the Anthony Award and the Agatha Award. She told a number of stories about experiences that she had that she had woven into her mysteries.

Elaine was introduced by **Donna Mergenhagen**, the owner of the **Well Read Bookstore & Gallery**. She has many Open House get-togethers where she introduces authors and artists.

To find out more about the bookstore, log onto "Well Read Bookstore and Gallery" on Facebook.

The address of the bookstore is **1375 S.E. 17th Street, Ft. Lauderdale.**

Our speaker for March is **Dr. Lisa Smith**. She will be talking about stress relief and interactive health issues.

*Echo*





## Luncheon

Margarite Falconer 954-524-2938  
margaritefalconer@gmail.com



Our purpose for the Scholarship Luncheon is to raise money for our scholarship program. We appreciate your support hope you had a good time.

For the wonderful prizes so many of you donated, thank you. Without your generous support we would not be able to give scholarships to deserving young people who want to go into education.

To everyone who donated their time and efforts in making this a success, again, thank you.

*Margarite*



*Bev's  
Bytes.....*



954-587-9275  
HapiHopi@aol.com

What exquisite Mardi Gras centerpieces **Marjuree Larin** created for our 2015 Scholarship Luncheon! I discovered that she's a part time party planner! So if you're having an event and need help, call Marjuree!



Thanks to **Margarite Falconer** for chairing this year's luncheon. Great job! And the food was, as always, 5 stars!

There were 104 tickets sold for the event. I missed seeing **Glenn & Rita Sanderson** who have been members and luncheon attendees for many years.

**Nancy Ruiz** is making good progress at home and hopes to have her final surgery next month. Meanwhile she's keeping busy by phone and reported the following: **Barbara Bohuny** suffered a detached retina but is on the road to recovery. Condolences to **Bill Atchison** whose wife **Augusta** died last month. Thanks, Nancy.

And thanks to **Myken Brady** who has volunteered to do the club scrapbook for this year! She's been doing so much volunteering for **Broward Health** (Broward General for us old folk!) for the past few years she hasn't been able to attend

## Passages Happy Birthday

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

**Grace Vaughn 3/2**  
**Mary Jane Kirkley 3/19**  
**Warren Cox 3/20**  
**Ethel Gerakas 03/20**  
**Ken Hendricks 03/25**  
**Frankie Foeman 3/27**



*Thinking of You....*

**Bill Atchison**  
**Barbara Bohuny**  
**Nancy Ruiz**



*In Memoriam*  
**Mildred Jones-Fuce**

meetings. Welcome back, Myken!

Sorry I don't have room for all the table photos! See them on **Shutterfly**!

And that's the last byte for this month! *Bev*

To see all the photos from the luncheon, visit our website at <http://browardrea.org>  
Click on  
[Photos on Shutterfly](#)

## Information Services

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



The pursuit of happiness is one goal that is constantly in our lives. With some of us it is the next big thing that is just over the hill; with others it is right here in front of us. **Todd Patkin** author of *Finding Happiness*, stated that "happiness is the culmination of all of the actions, choices, and habits that fill our day, as well as how we think about them." Plainly, happiness is a state of mind. A number of experts found that these five things were key to finding happiness. (1) the highest level of happiness was found with the most stable, and most contented relationships. (2) A study at Lake Forest University participants found that they felt happier when they were more outgoing and less happy when they were withdrawn. (3) When the editors of [forbes.com](http://forbes.com) gave strangers a

small sum of money and told one half of the group to spend it all on themselves and the other half to share it with others, the group that had shared it with others felt much happier at the end of the day than the other group. (4) Studies from the University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology show that downcast people who wrote three good things that happened to them each day for six months reported an improved outlook. (5) A small study from the University of Connecticut suggested that even slight dehydration compromised the moods of its female participants. Hydrate yourself.

Value relationships, be outgoing, be kind, be happy!

*Kathlyn*

## Literacy

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



A big thanks to everyone who has been bringing children's books to our meetings. As our BCREA calendar year seems to be rolling along too quickly and we only have a few meetings left to enjoy, think about donating just one more book to help make a child happy. That one book may lead to a lifetime of literacy and reading enjoyment. Please bring a new or gently used book to our meeting.

*Sandy*

## Friendship

Chairman: Julia Penley  
561-465-2739 jgpen581@aol.com



Hello Everyone! I hope your new year so far has been filled with good health and happiness. We had 7 birthdays to celebrate in February, but I'm sad to report we lost one of our members, **Mildred Jones-Fuce**, the last week in January. Again, Thanks everyone for notifying me of any 85 or older birthdays not recognized or any illnesses or passing of any member of our group. Without you we would not be able to let them or their family know they are always in our thoughts and prayers. I was not able to attend the Scholarship luncheon but I

heard it was a huge success! However, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on March 5th!! We only have three more meetings before the Summer break begins...Wow! time goes by so fast doesn't it? If you missed the January meeting..you missed a new exercise getting to know some of our members better!! What a fun way it was to learn about their past and daily lives...for example, did you know our President was once a Prom Queen??? See you in March!

*Julia*

## Volunteer Opportunity!

Come teach again! But this time no tests, no grades, no planning and no homework! Come volunteer at **the Museum of Discovery and Science**, a hands-on family museum. We have several different opportunities available.

You could volunteer in the Programs department where you would work in a different capacity each hour. Alternatively, you could volunteer as a concierge, who greets visitors, takes tickets, distributes maps and provides information.

Interested in learning more?

Contact **Donna Kunkle**, Volunteer Coordinator, at 954-713-0921.

## BCREA Is Turning 50!

We want to mark this milestone with activities and festivities.

Do you have suggestions or want to help plan the celebration?

If so, please email Anne French

[afrench@hotmail.com](mailto:afrench@hotmail.com)



### FREF Extravaganza

**Tickets - Only \$10.00**

Buy your tickets now for a Chance to WIN:

**Grand Prize \$500 Cash**

**1st Place \$400 Cash**

**2nd Place \$300 Cash**

**3rd Place \$200 Cash**

**4th Place \$100 Cash**

Donations are used to provide scholarships for students planning to major in education. Buy Tickets at the January - May 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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](mailto:dardra@att.net)  
or mail it to me at:

**Darcia Drago  
4346 Carambola Circle North  
Coconut Creek, FL 33066**

# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## Volunteer Services

**Chairman: Darcia Drago  
954-977-7247      [dardra@att.net](mailto:dardra@att.net)**



Our March meeting is the last call for community service hours to be included in our annual report to FREA. Remember to include travel time. Any hours reported after this date will count towards next year's totals.

*Darcy*

## 2015 - 2016 Slate Announced

President **Diane Texter** announced the slate for the upcoming Club year.

President

**President-Elect**

**Echo Heyer**

**Vacant**

Secretary

Treasurer

**Josephine Walker**

**Marelise LeClerc**

Voting will take place at the March meeting. A candidate for President-elect has not been found. If anyone is interested in running, contact **Margarite Falconer**.

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



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*Serving Broward Educators Since 1946*



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PERMIT NO. 409

**- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

***Membership***

Chairman: Susan Lochrie

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net



**DUES NOTICE FOR 2015-2016**

Fifty dollars is the amount for 2015-2016 dues.

We send your state dues of \$35.00 to FREA for you. BCREA is the Broward County Unit of the Florida Retired Educators Association. A membership card will be sent from FREA. You will be on the Broward County Retired Educators Newsletter list and in the Membership Directory. BCREA local dues support our meetings, our newsletters and Directory printing. Our scholarships are awarded to high school graduates who are pursuing a career in Education. Please invite your retired friends to come to meetings or send me their names and I will send them membership information.

Anyone who brings in three NEW members this year will WIN a \$25. Gift Certificate

*Susan*

**BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Do you wish to receive your *Newsletter* by e-mail only?    Yes    No**

Date Retired\_\_\_\_\_ Retired From\_\_\_\_\_ Position\_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: .....\$50.00;    Donation for Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make check payable to **BCREA** and mail to **Susan Lochrie,**

**BCREA Membership, P.O. Box 30533, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303**