

## Robert Runcie - Facing Broward's Challenges!

Few could deny that Broward Superintendent of Schools **Robert W. Runcie** is a man to whom we must all look up! At 6' 4" (or more) he is an impressive figure who towered over **Diane Texter** and **Margarite Falconer** at the October meeting. Speaking without notes, Mr. Runcie basically gave a "State of the Schools" report. As of October 5, he has been Broward's superintendent for one year. It has not been an easy year for him. "Fifty years ago we wanted kids to learn to be good citizens and to work in factories. Now, education determines the vitality of a community." Kids need a whole different set of skills now. They need to be able to look at a problem and be able to collaborate



and communicate to solve it. A major problem that faces the educational community is that 65% of children entering kindergarten aren't really ready to learn. Teachers need to teach skills - not serve as babysitters. According to FCAT results, by 3rd grade the number not up to grade level is 57%; by 8th grade, 41%. The state graduation rate is 78% and

only 52% of those who take the SAT and ACT exams are ready for college and career. Among the challenges he's faced in his first year was that over 70% of classes were out of compliance and the state assessed a \$66 million fine; now, 90% are in compliance. The recent well-publicized transportation problems resulted because of changes to alleviate the highest costs in the state which resulted in reducing classroom funding.

Coming from a business background, he "firmly believes that dramatically transforming public education is among the most important work to be done in this country, so that all children can receive the quality education they deserve. He has successfully applied the best business practices acquired in the private sector to improving public education operations and instructional strategies," according to his website.

### November 1st Meeting

**Time:** 11:45 AM

**Place:** Deicke Auditorium  
Address: 5701 Cypress Road  
Plantation  
(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

**Program:** Broward Women's Chorus

### Bring to meeting:

- Check for Theater Tickets
- Potluck Dish to Share
- Items for the Food Drive
- Personal Hygiene products
- Books for Humane Society Resale
- Kids' books for Literacy
- Campbell's labels
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- General Mills labels
- Blankies & Pillows

### Welcome New Members

New members abounded at the October meeting! Twelve came



for the photo - Joseph Anselme surrounded by 11 ladies!



10/04/2012

## President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

With the Superintendent and his aide we broke our record attendance at the October meeting. 91 members and guests listened to the superintendent tell us about his plans for Broward schools.

We also set a record with the amount of food. We'll add another table to the buffet at the November meeting. We've grown from the four to five and now six tables of great food. We had two tables of just desserts. That's 12 feet of cookies, cakes, cupcakes, pies, fruit, brownies and bread pudding. I have a sweet tooth so I did try quite a few of them.

Delicioso!

The more members we have, the louder the voice that will be heard where it counts. We, as part of Florida Retired Educators' Association, keep track of what's happening in the state legislature. One of our mission statements is "to better insure the quality of life for the retired educator."

We are very happy to have you signing up for committees as you did at the meeting. Those not attending can call or email the committee chair to join the committee of your choice.

Past President **Darcy Drago** will be honored on October 20 as one of Broward County's Pioneers. Please join us in congratulating her at Oakland Park School at 2:00 for refreshments and 3:00 for the ceremony. Call 954-357-5553 for a reservation.

See you November 1. Love ya, *Margante*



## President-Elect's Corner

When I contacted Broward County Superintendent **Robert Runcie** to be our speaker in October, I did not know what to expect. He filled us in on such topics as bus scheduling problems, graduation statistics, and charter schools. BUT the big surprise was that he listened to one of our members and promised that volunteers would no longer need to pay \$20.00 a day to park at the KC Wright Building! Besides that, he told me that he would try to get me a raise as a substitute teacher!! (I have 89 witnesses!)

Our November 1st meeting should start the month off with toe-tapping and humming along with a choral presentation by the **Broward Women's Chorus**. I wonder if any of the members might be retired music teachers.

See you in November for an enjoyable day of music and fun!

*Diane*



## Community Service /Directory

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



### Community Service

Once again it's time to share our bounty. At our November meeting we will collect nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products for the Cooperative Feeding Program. Hopefully, we will help restock their pantry shelves and assist some Broward families who are in need of a helping hand in these tough economic times. Thanks for

supporting our community service efforts and for reporting your volunteer hours.

### Directory

The 2012 - 2013 Directory will go to press immediately following the November meeting so be sure to report any changes to your directory listing to Membership Chairman **Susan Lochrie** before then.

*Darcy*

## Social Committee

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



Once again, everyone has outdone themselves... the quality, the quantity, the taste...ahhh! Thanks to each and every one who brought delectable goodies for the first table of the season. There was food-a-plenty and it was all truly delicious. Also, many thanks to all of you who promptly removed their empty dishes and leftovers from the table so the committee could quickly clean up the area. Someone suggested to me that the next time they come, they are going to bring a spare plastic grocery bag in their purse, just in case they have a messy dish or plate to take back

home. Sounds like a good idea!

Again, thank you to all the participants for a job well done! We did not find any left over serving pieces or dishes so it seems that everything that came with you to the meeting, found its way back to your home. Can't wait to see what marvelous delights will be displayed at the next meeting.

*Sallie*

# Passages



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

- Agnes Schnierer 11/09
- Runette Williams 11/09
- Catherine Johnson 11/12
- Mary Perfect 11/13
- Mary Dunavent 11/20
- Frances Goodstein 11/20
- Linnie Kidd 11/21



Thinking of You  
Pat Schroder  
Shirley Ernst

In Memoriam



Johne Bentley 9/14/12  
Bettye Williams-Brown  
8/28/2012

## BCREA Officers...

### President

Margarite Falconer  
954-524-2938

### President-Elect

Diane Texter  
954-972-8032

### Secretary

Josephine Walker  
954-742-2430

### Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc  
954-962-7343



## Cultural Affairs / FREF

Chairman: Carol Roland

954-472-2389

CAROLRBEADS@aol.com



Time is running out to order your tickets for the 2012-13 Cultural Affairs season!

I need to place the order on **November 2**, so let me know your intentions as soon as soon as possible. You can e-mail me at [carolrbeads@aol.com](mailto:carolrbeads@aol.com) and give me a check at the next meeting or mail your check before Nov. 2 to

9721 SW 14th Place, Davie, Fl. 33324.

Here is our correct theater schedule:

- Jan. 24 2:00PM **Damn Yankees** Stage Door Theatre #1 \$33.00
- Feb. 2 8:00 PM **Agatha Christie BBC Mystery** Parker Playhouse \$34.50
- Mar. 2 7:30 PM **Capital Steps** Coral Spr Ctr for Performing Arts \$34.64

**Damn Yankees**, an oldie but certainly a goodie, tells the story of baseball fan Joe who sells his soul to Devil to help his team the Washington Senators win Pennant against Yankees. Even non-baseball fans will love because sexy Lola is there to spark interest and cause trouble.

**Agatha Christie BBC Mystery**, a classic who-dun-it, combines Three Blind Mice, Yellow Iris, Butter in a Lordly Dish and Personal Call. This play is premiering at Parker Playhouse for the first time since WWII. A must for mystery buffs.

**Capital Steps** is a hilarious and satiric show that pokes fun at government, political parties, and any current events they desire. The show holds nothing sacred, is constantly changing, and puts "the mock back in democracy".

Day Trips scheduled:

We are also trying to arrange two day trips: The **tour of Bonnet House** followed by lunch needs to be rescheduled to a date in December. We are trying for December 4 but must have 15 people signing up. Cost of the Tour is \$14. BCREA's **Susan Lochrie** has volunteered to be our guide to lead us around the house followed by a tram ride around the grounds. Afterwards, we will meet for lunch at Casa Blanca. I will collect money for the tour at the Bonnet House. You will pay for lunch yourself. E-mail me as soon as possible at [carolrbeads@aol.com](mailto:carolrbeads@aol.com) if you are interested so I can finalize arrangements.

In April (TBA), we plan to take a day trip to Ringling Museum in Sarasota. We would leave here at approximately 7:30 AM and return approximately 9:PM. We will collect money for transportation and admission; lunch and dinner is on your own. At this point we cannot give a price since the cost and type of transportation depends on the number of members attending. A rough estimate would be between \$89 and \$110. There are two restaurants at Ringling. Menus posted indicate price ranges of \$10-15 for lunch and \$15-25 for Dinner. If you are interested please e-mail me at [carolrbeads@aol.com](mailto:carolrbeads@aol.com) and include any information you think is important. Once I know who is interested, I will work up the costs and date and then e-mail those interested.

### FREF

The FREF Scholarship applications have been sent to the high schools. Graduating seniors who are interested in teaching careers should check with their school's BRACE Advisor, Guidance Director or FEA sponsor for applications. This four-year, \$3250 scholarship can help pay for books and materials.

FREF scholarship money is raised through EXTRAVAGANZA tickets which will be on sale at the December meeting.

## Information Services

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



Very soon we will face one of the most important days of this year - Election day. It is important because all of us will be affected by it in one way or the other. That is why it is urgent that all of us vote. Not only will we be affected by those we elect on the national level but also, and most importantly, by those we put in office locally. Their actions have a greater impact on our lives than those taken by the officials in Washington. Also acquaint yourselves with the amendments on the ballot. Consider the language thoroughly so that you can vote in your best interest. The League of Women Voters recommends

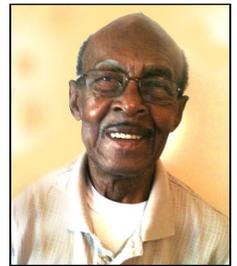
that you should vote "no" on all of them as they should not be a part of the state constitution. The holidays are coming and along with them comes the Flu Bug. Arm yourself against this enemy. Get your flu shot today if you haven't gotten it already. It is recommended that you have a pneumonia shot also. Be well armed -- stay healthy. Take precaution when doing your holiday shopping. This is a great time for thieves to do their business with your money. Beware of your surroundings and don't leave packages in sight in your car. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. *Kathlyn*

## Membership...

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



### Member Spotlight: Alphonso "Al" Giles



As many teachers of his generation, **Al Giles** took part in sweeping changes in our nation and country. World War II brought his college life to a temporary halt when Al was drafted into the Army in 1942. Having earned high grades in chemistry, he was sent to water purification school and was transferred to the jungles of New Guinea to man a water-purification station where he and three other specialists provided fresh water to American troops. Upon leaving New Guinea, Al briefly served in the Philippine Islands and on the Japanese island of Okinawa. After the war, Al returned to Florida A&M with the G.I. Bill and completed his studies in Science. After teaching one year of high school in Lakeland, Al studied graduate-level Science at Howard University in Washington D. C. and later transferred to Temple University in Philadelphia, earning his Master's degree. Al came to Dillard High School in 1951 and remained there until transferring to Everglades Middle School 1961 where he became head of the science department. In 1962, Al was among a group of the first African Americans selected to study at the all-white Florida State University on a Science and Math Education Grant. Out of concern for their safety, Broward school administrator **Wilbur Marshall** met with the group of teachers, asking if they would prefer to live at the all-black Florida A&M and commute to Florida State. The teachers chose to live on campus at Florida State and encountered no problems. Shortly after their arrival at Florida State, the *Tallahassee Democrat* headlined an article "Education, Not Agitation," emphasizing their mission at the school. In 1970, Al moved to the recently integrated Lauderdale Lakes Middle School, as Science Department head. While working at Lauderdale Lakes, Al also taught science on weekends in the Upward Bound Program at Florida Memorial College in Miami and was named "Teacher of the Year" in 1972. Al retired from public school teaching in 1983. Al was encouraged to join BCREA by his bowling team captain, **Lillian Lampkins**, BCREA President, 1986-1988. Al proudly shares that he "celebrated the 45th anniversary of his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday" on May 2, 2012. *Susan*

## Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz  
954-473-9480 Sief123@bellsouth.net



Thanks to everyone who donated books at the October meeting. It was a great kick off to our literacy campaign. Our goal is to develop a love for reading and what better way than to provide children with their very own book. Bring new or gently used books to our meetings. Each month the committee will



provide a tip to reach out and find book donations. November's Tip: In November we often stop and take time to give thanks. Many of our relatives are able to provide books for their children and thankfully, their children are readers. As the children grow and outgrow their books, ask your relatives to please pass the books along. A "secondhand book" can bring a smile to some child's face, heart, and mind. *Sandy*

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bev's Bytes*... **Pat Schroder** came home from an extended trip to face a homeowner's worst nightmare: her condo had been flooded and got moldy! The entire apartment is having to be gutted and re-built. **Shirley Ernst** missed the October meeting because of a broken arm she incurred when she slipped on a slippery sidewalk! We collected \$112 for **Meals on Wheels** at the October meeting! Our 50/50 this month also gave away 3 flower arrangements by **Carol Roland** and 2 insulated bags from **BrightStar's Marjuree Larin**! Legislative Chairman **Nancy Adams** says, "Vote NO



*From the Treasurer*

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



We have started the new year off in a fantastic manner! **Mr. Bruce Arnold** once again presented the Association with a \$1000 check in memory of **Coach John Lyzott**. Bruce has done this for a number of years, and because of his generosity, we have been able to continue assisting students in their quest to become teachers through our scholarship program. A heartfelt thank you to Bruce Arnold for his kindness.

It was such a sense of success to issue checks of \$1000 each to 5 universities for the fall term. Our 2012 scholarships went to FAU (**Deanna Campbell**), U of South FL (**Nigel Dooling**), U of FL (**Matthew Balles**), FIU (**Lashay Thorpe**), and Stetson (**Alexandra Fritz**). We plan on following these students in their quest to become teachers.

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Scholarship Donations</b>  |                       |
| <b>Donor</b>                  | <b>In Memory Of</b>   |
| Bruce Arnold                  | John Lyzott           |
| Darcy Drago                   | Ginny Dewar           |
| Susan Lochrie                 | Ginny Dewar           |
| Dorothy Howard                | Rhoda Snead Collins   |
| Dorothy Howard                | Bettye Williams Brown |
| <b>Undesignated Donations</b> |                       |
| Dolores Heyman                | Hennie Johnson        |
| Janice Johnson                | Bessie Showers        |

on Amendment 8!" Its purpose is to use public school funds for parochial schools! Congrats **Darcy Drago** on being named a Broward Pioneer! So much info, no more room for me! - so that's the last byte for this time. *Bev*

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:

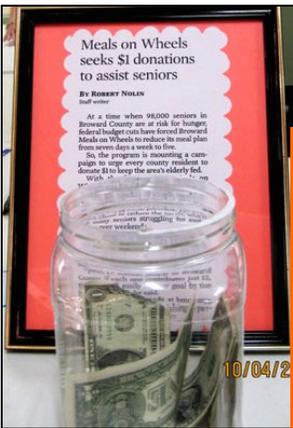
954-486-2728



Online at <http://BSCU.org>

*Serving Broward Educators since 1946*

# Scenes from the October Meeting



**11 Members Attended the District 10 Workshop September 21**  
(Photo by Susan Lochrie)  
Back row, L-R: Carol Roland, Marelise LeClerc, Margarite Falconer, Joanne Davis, Anne French, Linda Horton, & Rosetta Watkins;  
Front row, L-R: Frances Smoot, Susan Lochrie, Arline Ziller and Kathlyn Barno

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