

November, 2013

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

Number 232

Runcie Redux Results in Rapid Recounting

For the second year in a row, Broward Superintendent of Schools **Robert W. Runcie** was the kick-off speaker for the BCREA club year, drawing a total of 102 to hear him speak. Arriving like "Hurricane Runcie" and speaking at a rapid rate, he explained that one person had expressed the opinion that he must be twins, so many places did he appear. In a manner similar to last year, Mr. Runcie updated his "State of the Schools" report, emphasizing the advancements in technology and early childhood development in the past year. They have repurposed Lauderdale Manors Elementary as a family center and Lauderdale Middle School as a Birth-3 center. They are using "Innovations for Learning," an online mentoring program for kids in K - 3. He discussed a new program: "Digital 5," in which all 5th graders are issued com-

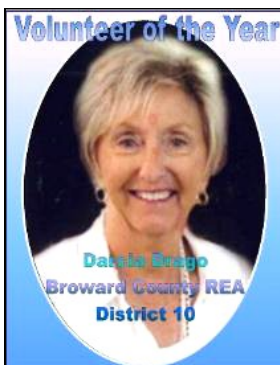


puters. This is being implemented at 27 elementary schools. The county has submitted requests for \$20 - \$30 million to expand this program to middle schools. "Feedback is enormously encouraging," he states. In working to make all students college-and-career-ready, they are expanding online programs to prepare students for future jobs. An

example of success in the area of online studies is a young man from McArthur HS who has won regional and state competitions and gone on to nationals - all through online study. There is even a K-12 online school - Broward Virtual School. Among the challenges he's faced in the past year is the continuing problem of class size. When he took the job, over 70% of classes were out of compliance and the state had been assessed a \$66 million

fine; now, 87% are in compliance. Unfortunately, in the restructuring of high school classes to improve the situation, new problems have been created. Moving back to a yearly 7-period day from the block system of 4 classes per semester has not been accepted without complaint. Pay raises for teachers was also a concern addressed by members during a Q & A session that had to be cut short because of time. And he was off to his next engagement!

Darcy Drago Named District 10 VOY



Congratulations to BCREA Past-President and District 10 Past-Director **Darcy Drago** who was selected as the District 10 Volunteer of the Year. The announcement was made at the FREA State Assembly in Jacksonville in May.



November 7th Meeting

Time: 11:45 AM

Place: Deicke Auditorium
5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: Elizabeth Van Zandt -
Downtown Development Authority

Bring to meeting:

Potluck Dish to Share
Items for the Food Drive
Personal Hygiene products
Books for Humane Society Resale
Kids' books for Literacy
Books for Book Exchange
Campbell's labels
Aluminum pull-tabs
General Mills labels



President's Corner

What a great first meeting ! More than 100 folks attended and the superintendent was our speaker! Welcome to our new members. We have a program to encourage you to invite your friends to join BCREA.

Everyone who brings 3 new members by December will receive a Macy's gift card. One of my friends has joined already so let's see if more will follow. I believe that Mr. Runcie is well spoken and informed. This is the second time he has been our speaker. Some of us had difficult questions for him but he handled it well.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. There is a real need for an Historian. Someone who likes to do scrapbooking. One or two can work together. Please let me know if you are interested.

As your new president I am thankful for the chance to lead BCREA in the coming year.

Diane



Social Committee

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



Once again a Fantastic, Fabulous Feast was provided by YOU. From the cookies and cakes, and desserts galore, to the fruits and salads and veggies and chips, to the main dishes and the chicken, all was enjoyed. Welcome to our new members - and know that this array of delectable delights is provided each and every time. So start thinking of your potluck dish for November.

Please remember a few things:

1. If you bring your food in a container, please take your serving dish or platter home with you and remember to keep your grocery bag so you can safely store your empty

dish.

2. We will provide serving spoons and forks, so no need for you to bring yours from home (as they sometimes are lost).

3. As you leave the building, please take a look at the table and help dispose of any leftovers you do not want to carry home. If you have any questions or ideas, please let us know. (Just make sure that BCREA is in the Subject line.)

Thanks to everyone who participates, because of you, our luncheon is always a success and we always have enough food to share.

Sallie

President-Elect's Corner

At the October meeting Superintendent Robert Runcie addressed many of the new programs that the Broward County School System will be putting into effect this school year. There were many questions and with his answers we got into some stirring discussions. Retired educators are a knowledgeable and interested group.

Our speaker for November is Elizabeth Van Zandt. Elizabeth grew up in Ft. Lauderdale and attended North Andrews Gardens Elementary School. She works for the Downtown Development Authority of Ft. Lauderdale.

Elizabeth is a multi-talented person in that she has good information about the Downtown Authority but has also written a book about multi-tasking, eating healthy and cooking.

It will be interesting to see how she weaves all of these subjects together.

She will be presenting a very absorbing program about the Development Authority and also about her book.

Come join us, November 7th, in the beautiful, re-decorated Deicke Auditorium. *Echo*



Community Service /Directory

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



Community Service

At our November meeting we will collect nonperishable food items, personal care products and men's casual shoes & clothing for LifeNet4Families (the Cooperative Feeding Program). This organization has served the hungry and homeless of Broward County for the past 27 years. They provide an emergency food pantry, family counseling, a community kitchen

that serves 1.3 million meals a year, and interface with WorkForce One for employment support.

Thank you for supporting all our community service projects and for reporting your volunteer hours.

Directory

The 2013-14 directory will go to the printer immediately after our November meeting and will be distributed in December.

Darcy

Passages



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

Runette Williams 11/09
Catherine Johnson 11/12
Mary Perfect 11/13
Mary Dunavent 11/20
Frances Goodstein 11/20



Thinking of You
Bruce Arnold
Linda Horton
Marjuree Larin



BCREA Officers....

President

Diane Texter
954-472-8032

President-Elect

Echo Heyer
954-523-0661

Secretary

Josephine Walker
954-742-2430

Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343



Cultural Affairs

Chairman: Carol Roland

954-472-2389

CAROLRBEADS@aol.com



It's not too late to order your tickets for the following
2013-14 Cultural Affairs Events:

Wednesday -

Jan. 22 Day trip to Morikami Museum BocaRaton/DelRay Cost:\$15 +Lunch

Saturday -

Feb. 15, 2 pm Crimes of the Heart Stage Door Theater \$33.

Sunday -

Mar. 23, 2 pm Miami City Ballet *Don Quixote* - Broward Center \$30.

Friday -

Apr. 11, 8 PM Over the River/Through the Woods Stage Door Theater \$33.

You can e-mail me at carolrbeads@aol.com to put you on the list and then mail your check to me at 9721 SW 14th Place, Davie, FL 33324. Deadline is Nov. 2

From Julia Penley:

The Broward County World Language Department is looking for retired World Language teachers who would like to volunteer as judges for the upcoming World Language School Competitions.

Judges are needed for High School, Middle School and Elementary competitions beginning in February.

If you would like to serve, please email me (Julia Penley) at jgpen581@aol.com ASAP!

Let me know which language(s) (all languages are needed!) and for which competition you would like to volunteer as a judge and I will contact you with details, etc.

Thank you! Gracias! Merci! *Julia*



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FREA Tours

Arline Ziller, FREA Travel Coordinator

SE 6 Terrace Pompano Beach, FL

Home: 954-781-4445 Email: arlinez@juno.com



Many thanks to all who wished me well when I fell again. Careful just is not enough, but all is going along well and I am looking forward to the 2014 cruise. It is most important that you waste no time reserving now as the ship is fully booked and I need to put everyone in the spaces I have reserved and then switch as is necessary to accommodate your desires.

The other trips are still available so talk to your groups so that you are traveling with others. The members who went to Ireland reported that they had a wonderful time.

I have had several requests for the River Cruise --Paris to Prague--and I hope to be able to do that in September.

Arline

Friendship

Chairman: Nancy Ruiz
954-966-7242 nanserf68@att.net



Hi Everyone,
Thanks to everyone for helping me get off to a flying start with my new job! Please keep up your good work.

Belated Birthday Wishes go out to Life Member **Mary Weber** who turned 99 on September 24! Hope you had a fabulous celebration, Mary.

Nancy



Literacy

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



Thanks to everyone who donated children's books at the October meeting. Please continue to bring new and gently used books to our meetings.

Your passion for children and literacy was evident at the October meeting. Every book makes a difference in one child's life.

Don't be afraid to ask a neighbor, friend, or relative to check their book shelves and search for a book that their child may have outgrown. Thanksgiving can be a time to be thankful for what we have as well as what we

can do for others. It was nice to see members checking out the new Book Exchange basket, below! This is also the time of year to share the 5th Grade Essay contest with teachers and fifth graders. The essay is about an experience with a grandparent or grandparent figure. Perhaps your grandchild would like to write about you!

I would be happy to send you the contest guidelines. Just email me slef123@bellsouth.net or call 954-473-9480.

Sandy



Membership...

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



MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

BRING IN 3 NEW MEMBERS WHO PAY THEIR DUES

BY THE MEETING

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 AND

WIN A \$25.00 MACY'S GIFT CERTIFICATE

Some of you have already gotten started this year in inviting others to join.

BCREA is a great way to renew friendships and make new friends. It's fun to get together with people who share common bonds and similar concerns. The Florida Retired Educators Association is our professional organization working at the state level to protect benefits and services for those who have retired. All retired Employees of Florida public schools, with five or more years of service are eligible to join BCREA and FREA as Active regular members. All retirees who retired from the educational system of any state, or from privately funded or parochial school with five or more years of service are also eligible to join BCREA as Active regular members. Associate Membership shall be open to spouses of members and to anyone interested in the work of this association. This includes anyone who retired from a state other than Florida and desire only to be affiliated with BCREA, the local unit. Associate members pay local dues, with privileges of membership, but may not vote, hold office, or represent the association.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Susan

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.

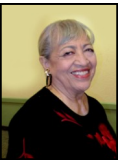
GRAND TOTAL: _____

Bev's Bytes.... Our 50/50 Winners this month were **Echo Heyer**, \$20; \$10 each to **Diane Raymond**, **Nancy Howell** and **Doris Cotton**; and flower arrangements to **Pat Schroder**, **Dianne Eager**, and new member **Susan Smiler**.



Information Services

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



HO, Ho, Ho! The holidays are approaching and with them come the unsavory folk looking for an easy mark. They know that you are busy shopping for gifts and have them stored in your house waiting to be delivered.

"Wouldn't it be nice to cash in on this bounty! Just enter this house and it is all yours," so they think.

This is why now we need to be extra careful about securing our homes from intruders. Here are some tips from a person at ADT Security for providing a safer environment for your home now and always

Don't leave notes for family and friends outside your home.

Don't leave tools or ladders lying around your yard. Burglars can use them to

break in.

Remove shrubs that can hide a burglar from sight.

Install deadbolt locks on your outside doors and make sure that all hinges are on the inside.

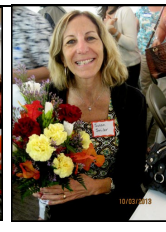
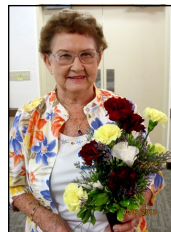
Lock garage and sliding glass doors every night and when you are away from home.

Don't hide keys outside, such as in the mailbox. Burglars usually know where they are.

When you buy appliances destroy the box or hide it in your trash. You don't want others to know you have something new inside.

Be safe and not sorry that you were careless. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathlyn



Congrats **Darcia Drago** on being District 10 Volunteer of the Year! So much info, no more

room for me! - so that's the last byte for this time.

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:

954-486-2728



Online at <http://BSCU.org>

Serving Broward Educators since 1946

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Scenes from FREA Meetings



Attending the FREA State Assembly in Jacksonville in May were Margarite Falconer, Echo Heyer, Anne French, Carol Roland and Diane Texter



10 Members Attended the District 10 Workshop in West Palm Beach on September 21

L-R: Margarite Falconer, Joanne Davis, Josephine Walker, Linda Horton, Anne French, Echo Heyer, Carol Roland, Diane Texter, Susan Lochrie, and Marelise LeClerc,



Scenes from the October Meeting