

BCREA Newsletter



November, 2020

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 288

34 Attend October Zoom Meeting!



November 5th Meeting
 Time: 12:00 Noon Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Place: Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQclJlZ09>
 Meeting ID: 291 769 9881
 Passcode: BCREA2020

Program: Shea Ciriago,
 Broward Education Foundation

If you aren't among the photos above, you missed a very informative October meeting. One member - **Julia Penley** - who lives in Denver who was able to participate from 2,042 miles away!

When **Jayne Chapman** went to work in Ted Deutch's office she was told she could not speak about politics and she had

to take an ethics class. She was basically clueless as to what her job entailed. She now knows it's helping people with anything dealing with the federal government in-

cluding such things as mortgages, credit cards, unemployment issues, social security, passports and emergency issues - and much more. Her associate

Yanet Brunet discussed those. When the pandemic struck leaving Americans

stuck in foreign countries, they helped get them home. For people whose driver's licenses have expired, they can get help here too. **Missy Belsito, Suzanne Atkin** and

continued on page 2

President's Corner

REIMAGINE.

It's a word that has been around since 1825 according to Merriam Webster. Now it's a word that has gained new prominence in our current "Age of the Pandemic." REIMAGINE. REIMAGINING. Over and over again in almost anything we have done so far this year, and most certainly for the next few months, this new norm will need to provide reimagined activities for our continued work in BCREA: our fundraising, books for children, jerky for the troops, and our other projects in which we participate.

Meetings are so vital for us as we move forward. Our October **Zoom** meeting was very successful thanks to my son **Brishen Jackson**. Brishen has been responsible for the success of all 3 of the Zoom meetings we have had. We couldn't have done it without him!

The new officers for this year were inducted by Past-president **Carol Roland**, and a program from the office of **Ted Deutch's Constituent Services** was presented. Kudos to our President-elect **Sue Colton**, for bringing us **Jayne Chapman** and **Yanet Brunet** who presented a wealth of information to the membership.

If you are a member who normally attends the meetings and were not there, you were noticeably missing. If you are one who does not attend, we invite you to come aboard on **Zoom** and join us from the privacy of your home or wherever you are in the world. Invite others and let us keep our focus on why we exist.

- (1) Download the **Zoom** app on your PC, Apple or Android devices. Use the codes on the front page.
- (2) **JOIN US** in our future meetings on the first Thursday of each month.



Lillian

President-Elect's Corner

As we approach our November 5th meeting and this traditional season of gratitude, let's stop and reflect on its meaning and the effect it has on our total health and well-being. **John F. Kennedy** said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Thanks and appreciation go to our pioneer Zoom presenters, **Jayne Chapman** and **Yanet Brunet** from U.S. Congressman **Ted Deutch's Office of Constituent Services**.

Since I live alone, the first thing I did was fill out the Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue information sheet (see page 5) in case of an emergency! I am also grateful for our BCREA Executive Board and members who worked so hard behind the scenes but made our first virtual meeting look easy. For our November program, friend and colleague **Shea Ciriago**, Executive Director of Broward Education Foundation, the only 501(c)3 direct support organization of Broward County Public Schools, will bring us exciting information and opportunities for the new year! I am fortunate to serve on their Board of Directors and chair the Innovative Teacher Committee.

Meanwhile, I will continue recruiting new members for BCREA and celebrating an "Attitude of Gratitude!"

Sue



Continued from page 1

Sue Colton all shared stories of expired licenses. Another area where they can assist is with postal problems, especially in not receiving benefit checks.

To contact Congressman Deutch's office, call **561-470-5440**.

For lots more info, go to

<https://teddeutch.house.gov/constituentservices/>

Happy Thanksgiving



Passages



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

- Martha Pipes 11/06
- Helen King 11/07
- Mary Perfect 11/13
- Mary 'Betty' Weber 11/17
- Mary Dunavent 11/20
- Dorothy Johnson 11/21



Thinking of You
Nancy Adams
Diane Jarhow

2020-2021 Officers

President

Lillian Small
954-288-9211

President-Elect

Sue Colton
954-695-5065

Secretary

Karen Avery
954-806-1678

Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343

Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-557-5817 Slef123@bellsouth.net



I hope you are all well and taking precautions to stay safe: masks, distancing and flu shot. Since we have been home and have gone to virtual socializing, I'm going to suggest that we look at literature this month and find resources for us to enjoy books. Here are some links for you to explore:

- The Miami Book Fair is going virtual this year. Usually it is a week of author talks and a book fair. Mark your calendars for November 15 - 22. Visit and choose your favorites: <https://www.miamibookfair.com/>

- If you haven't explored Broward County Library Overdrive, you are in for a surprise. Want an audio book or e-book? The book can be delivered to your iPad, e-reader, Kindle or computer.

<https://broward.overdrive.com/>

- Open Library allows you to search by category, subject or author. There are children's books for your grandkids and adult books for you.

<https://openlibrary.org/>

Settle into your favorite chair, sip on a cup of coffee or tea, and delve into a good read.

Sandy

Membership...

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

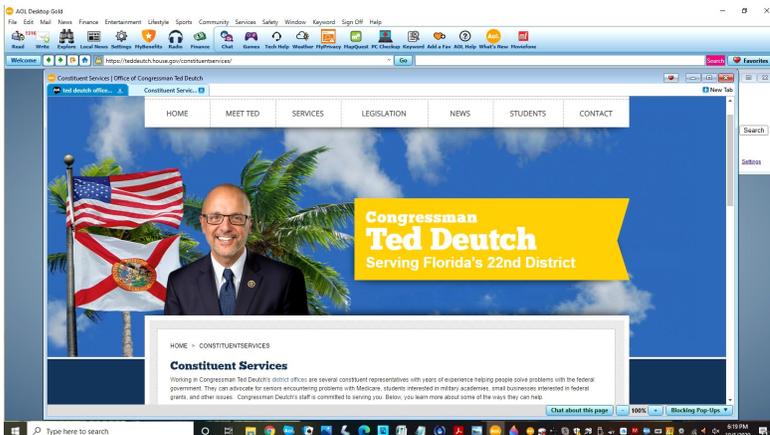


Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership in BCREA. You have been so generous in these challenging times. Your financial support is critical for our local organization. Reminders and forms for annual dues were sent by U.S. Mail in September. The date to be included in the new Directory by paying your dues is extended to Nov.1 this year. Please email or call me with any questions about the dues. If you pay dues directly to Florida Retired Educators Association, we ask that you include \$15. for local dues. Our local organization BCREA supports our Scholarship Program, our Newsletter and our Membership Directory. BCREA is vital as we continue to support the mission of FREA.

MISSION of FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

To safeguard the strength of Florida Retirement System
To support public education in Florida
To provide fellowship opportunities
To encourage community involvement
To be a source of information and materials

Susan



Information Services

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



Returning to our theme from the October Newsletter, during this time of retirement, stress, isolation and COVID, we need to continue to strengthen our bodies and engage our minds and to remain as safe as possible. Following are a few activities that you might want to consider:

For those who are perhaps looking for a new hobby or to continue with a present vocation, the city of Plantation is offering a "Plant-A-Seed Garden Kit Giveaway" for Seniors 55 and older! The event will take place on Friday, October 16th, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Jim Ward Community Center, 303 NW 46th Avenue, Plantation, Florida. Stay inside your car and they will hand off the kit as you drive by while wearing your mask. Additional information can be found on the City of Plantation web site.

www.plantation.org

For our readers in the group, Alvin Sherman Library at Nova, has a fun, virtual/online book club that meets monthly on the first Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The Happy Hour Book Club is led by Sarah Divine, MLIS, Adult Services Librarian II, Alvin Sherman Library and is free to the public. Just visit the Nova Alvin Sherman Library events calendar and register for this free event. Last

month's book was The Lyons of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis. After the book review and discussion, there was time for a game and then the group voted to select next months book entitled Naked Came the Florida Man by Tim Dorsey. <http://nsufl.libguides.com/bookclub>

As mentioned at the October 2020 meeting, a member of our group from the Colorado Spring area had his information "hacked." There are many scams occurring and recently there have been numerous attempts to illegally obtain your information involving Social Security. If you receive a phone call and the person states that they are with Social Security and they tell you that your "Social Security number has been linked to criminal activity" or that your "bank account is at risk" do not give them your Social Security number and immediately end this call! You can call Social Security's customer service line at 800-772-1213 to confirm whether a communication purporting to be from SSA is real. If you get an impostor call or email, report it to SSA using their detailed online form. You can also call Social Security's Fraud Hotline at 800-269-0271. Denise Austine, through AARP, offers at quick and

Community Service /Handbook

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



Please report any personal listing and committee changes for the handbook/directory by our November meeting date. Also, please send me any community service hours

that you have not yet reported. You may snail mail or e-mail the information to me. Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Darcy

From the Treasurer

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



Thanksgiving is upon us. Even though we continue to have our challenges, I have learned, in this present environment, to be thankful for the small things. Maybe one has to go through difficult times to appreciate the meaningful things in life.

We have now given out nine \$1000 scholarships to students this school year. Wow! If you haven't already sent in your dues, please consider adding extra money for the Scholarship Fund. Since there are no face-to-face meetings, we are missing out on collecting scholarship monies. THANK YOU to these recent donors:

DONOR
Bev Hoppe
Linda Marable

IN MEMORY OF
Evelyn Morris/Kathlyn Barno
John Gavin

UNDESIGNATED DONATIONS
Gloria Jack
Gloria McCoy
Michael Sutton
William Wolfolk
Madeline Levine
Clara Neeck
Susan Whiting
Hal Wulff

Marelise



easy morning stretch to get you up and moving. Try it for seven days and see how you feel. <https://videos.aarp.org/detail/video/5245040614001/> stretching-and-toning-with-

denise-austin---aarp
Stay fit, stay sharp, stay safe and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
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**- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

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
2505 Dahoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Bev's Bytes... Did you notice the lack of recent photos in this issue? I took around 25 photos of the Zoom meeting. I was so proud of myself as I did this by taking screen shots and saving them. The only problem was I saved them without giving them a name (as I do when I copy a photo into my phone!) Duh! When I excitedly checked my file to see what a great job I'd done, I had only the last photo I'd taken. Each photo had merely replaced the previous one. I nearly cried! So, the Zoom photo on the front page is a created Zoom shot. Actually, people are probably clearer than a real one! But there were 2 dogs in costume I didn't get and a couple of members in Halloween attire too. And if I missed anyone who was there, my apologies! Be sure to print the form on page 5 and put 1 in or on your fridge, 1 in your glove compartment and 1 in your purse or wallet. In case of emergency, your info will be available. Hope to see you in November on Zoom! And that's the last byte for this time! *Bev*



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