

December, 2014

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

Number 241

## Birds, Butterflies, Animals Thankful for NatureScapes!

When Diane Guidry was a child, she'd visit her grandmother in Atlanta. She and Grandma would go for walks in the woods. "I still remember the silence!" she remarks. "Grandma connected me with nature." Now a grandma herself, she is also a National Wildlife Award winner. She is a Natural Resource Specialist with the NatureScape Broward program. As such, she works closely with the National Wildlife Federation to pro-



mote their programs in South Florida. She's involved with approximately 70 programs and outreach events each year and coordinates volunteer trainings and activities. Using a slide show, she explained the NatureScape goals: Restore the native habitat, Remove invasive exotic species, Reduce pesticide use, Reduce waterway pollution and Con-

nect children to the natural world. Her job includes training employees and volunteers, working with schools and certifying yards as "NatureScape Yards." Broward County has over 2,050 Certified Wildlife Habitats, 76 of which are schools. Among the winners of the 2014 Emerald Award for having a nature-friendly yard is BCREA member Missy Bel-sito. In January and Au-



gust, there are training sessions to learn how you too can become a Habitat Steward! Visit [www.broward.org/naturescape](http://www.broward.org/naturescape) to learn more.

### Important Upcoming Dates!

#### December 4 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am

Place: Deicke Auditorium

5701 Cypress Road, Plantation  
(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program:: Bill and Karen Roach

Theater Life in Broward

December 11: Board Meeting, 11:30 am

Bev Hoppe's home

#### Bring to meeting:

Potluck Dish to Share

Blankies & Pillows

Books for Literacy

Boxtops & Labels for Education

Aluminum pull-tabs

Coupons for our troops

Cell Phones

Eyeglasses

December 16: Happy Hanukkah



December 25: Merry Christmas



December 26: Happy Kwanzaa



President Diane Texter presents Carol Roland with her District 10 Volunteer of the Year Award which was given at the FREA State Assembly in June.

### Mark Your 2015 Calendar:

#### BCREA

Invites You and Your Guests  
to our

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Social Hour: 11:30

Lunch served: 12 noon

Tropical Acres Restaurant

2500 Griffin Road

Tickets will be sold at the  
December and January meetings  
or

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 6.

## President's Corner

I have been going through "old" newsletters from past years and guess what? Each newsletter had articles about increasing membership, volunteer hours, annual fundraising luncheon, and legislation that affected retirees. Sound familiar?

Here are some interesting facts: BCREA was founded in 1965 with a core membership of 15. In 1983/84, local dues were \$3.00, state dues were \$5.00, making the total for a year \$8.00. A wonderful "new" form of depositing our paychecks was available through the Broward Schools Credit Union. DIRECT DEPOSIT!

In November, 1988, a scholarship committee began planning for the first local scholarship presentation. Previously we collected only for the Florida Scholarship. The annual February luncheon was held at Stouffer's Anacapi Inn on Federal Highway in Ft. Lauderdale.

It is fun to go over our history. I will share more in the next *Newsletter*. Broward County will turn 100 in 2015 and BCREA will turn 50. It looks like we will have plenty of reasons to celebrate next year! In the meantime, celebrate the upcoming holidays with your loved ones and keep track of your volunteer hours!!

*Diane*



## From the President-Elect

Diana Guidry spoke at our last meeting and many of you told me how much you enjoyed her presentation. She covered so many areas that fall under creating a NatureScape. She talked about backyard wildlife habitats, how much water means here in South Florida, using native plants and encouraging butterflies and birds into our yards. A NatureScape course is offered by the Natural Resources Planning and Management Division of The Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department.

At our December meeting Bill and Karen Roach will share the wide array of venues and companies in community and regional theater.

They both have extensive backgrounds in performing and will share their personal experiences and roles that they have played.

Bill is a retired principal and Karen, a retired school teacher. They will also describe the process of auditioning for a show and what directors look for when they are casting a play. Too, Bill has a beautiful voice and will sing several songs for us.

*Echo*



**Happy Holidays**



## Community Service

Many thanks for brightening the holidays of the clients served by LifeNet4Families. Your donation of food and clothing was much appreciated. Our next group project will not be until January when we will collect school supplies. Have you ever wondered

what it takes to become our Volunteer of the Year? It's not just the total numbers of community service hours; the impact of service to an individual and/or community and to BCREA/FREA is evaluated along with the diversity of service,

the number of years the person has volunteered and any honors received. The nominee must submit a letter of recommendation from his/her volunteer organization and must write a 250-300 word account of how the volunteer activity positively affected an individual or the community.

## Directories

The 2014-15 directory will be distributed at our December meeting. Copies will be mailed to shut-ins and those members living outside of Broward County. Wishing you and your family happy holidays!

*Darcy*



## Community Service / Directories

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





# Passages



*Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club*

*(members over 85!)*

Elizabeth Freeman 12/1  
Barbara Doherty 12/07  
Jean Funk 12/18  
Alzora Simmons 12/18  
Panchitta Chisholm 12/19  
Caroline Hooper 12/20  
Toni Merton 12/20  
Doris Emmett 12/26  
Betty Deacon 12/31

*In Memoriam*



*John Drag, Sr.  
William Gilmartin*



*Evelyn Morris  
Nancy Ruiz*



*Nova Singers  
Holiday Tidings*

Friday, 12-5-14 • 8 pm  
Hollywood Hills  
United Methodist Church  
400 N 35th Avenue  
HOLLYWOOD

Sunday, 12-7-14 • 4 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
400 N Swinton Avenue  
at Lake Ida Road  
DELRAY BEACH

Tuesday, 12-9-14 • 7:30 pm  
St. Sebastian  
Catholic Church  
2000 Marietta Drive  
South of 17th Street Csway  
FORT LAUDERDALE

All Performances:  
\$5/students; \$10/seniors  
All other adults advance  
tickets \$15 or \$20 at the door

[nova.edu/novasingers](http://nova.edu/novasingers)

## Social Committee

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



What a wonderful start to the holiday season! Once again the table was chock full of an assortment of tempting dishes and desserts. We were treated to some new dishes, while still enjoying some of our favorite recipes. During this Thanksgiving season, your Social Committee would like to thank all of you who faithfully remove

your dishes or containers from the table as you depart the luncheon. Even if you have a leftover food item that you do not wish to take home, or to share with family or friends, it would greatly assist the committee if you would remove your container from the table and discard it as you leave. Have a beautiful Thanksgiving Day with your family and friends.

*Sallie*

## Information Services

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



Ho. ho. ho. Santa Claus is coming to town. Is he going to leave a new car in your garage? If so, there are some new technologies that come in late model cars that make them more safe to drive. Even though the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that drivers 65 and older are among the safest drivers in the country, changes to eyesight, hearing reflexes, and physical mobility can affect your driving. Infrared technology can alert you to obstacles beyond the reach of your headlights.

The headlights shift as you are turning, helping you to see around curves. Rearview cameras can make it easier to see people, animals and objects behind you. Reverse

backup sensors beep to warn you when you are about to collide with something behind you. Airbag systems advance every year. Besides these advances there are driver safety courses available to help you keep your driving skills up to date. Contact AAA and AARP for more information.

If you are visiting friends or relatives during the holidays be sure you are a good guest and obey the rules of the house.

For instance, no shoes inside the house, no feeding the dog table scraps and pitch in to help the host. This way you will get an invitation to visit again.

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!

*Kathlyn*

*Bea's  
Bytes...*



Sorry to say, 2 more BCREA members have passed. Sadly, **John Drag** lost his battle with pancreatic cancer last month and **Bill Gilmartin** died November 2. But we have happy news as well: After 11 months of being hospitalized, **Nancy Ruiz** got to go home last week. She's still got a long way to go, but she's delighted to be home for the time being! And, it was good to have **Kathlyn Barno** back after her recent knee surgery. **Evelyn Morris** was very lucky to survive a fall with no broken bones; however, she had some serious bruising and stitches above her eye. There were 79 members and friends at the November meeting according to **Martha Pipes**. The winners of the Scholarship raffle were \$20: **Mel Wenig**; \$10 each: **Ilene**



**Miller, Edie  
MacMurdo and**

**Joanne Corder**



Out of room -  
AGAIN!

Happy Holidays!!

*Bea*



## FREA Tours for 2014

FREA Travel for FREF Scholarships  
Arline Ziller, FREA Travel Chairman

954-781-4445

Email: [arlinez@juno.com](mailto:arlinez@juno.com)



## Membership...

Chairman: Susan Lochrie  
954-525-8503 or [slochrie@bellsouth.net](mailto:slochrie@bellsouth.net)



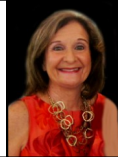
## Home(s) Needed for 3 Cats!

Princess, One-Zee and Prince are 3 years old --two black with white underneath and one silver gray, two girls and one boy. All are neutered, they've had all their shots; very good natured, indoor cats, completely trained; they love to play. But they are not good with other cats.

Call me for more info! *Arline*

## From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc  
954-962-7343 [Flsun1@comcast.net](mailto:Flsun1@comcast.net)



Recently, I have been asked about the process of making a donation. Some of you want to make donations at a time other than adding on to your dues. All donations are earmarked for our scholarship fund, unless otherwise specified. If you want to make a donation, make your check out to BCREA and note "donation" on the memo line. You are encouraged, if appropriate, to make it "In Memory of" a member or someone else close to you. It can also be "In Honor of" a person- perhaps as a congratulations, etc. You can mail any donations directly to me. I am in the Directory or you can call me for my address. A card will be sent to the family or person named.

As always, remember that donations are tax deductible. Last year we were able to give six \$1000 scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in education. That is all due to our caring, generous members- YOU!

*Marelise*

## Scholarship Donations

Donor

In Memory Of

Al Giles

Violet Dargan

Al Giles

Ethel M. Pappy

Al Giles

Sarah Pettis

Evelyn Morris

Will Hoppe

## Undesignated Donations

Marilyn Apau

Gwen Batie

Bettye Bradshaw

Theresa Campbell

Ruth Hooper

Faye Mullarkey

Allegra Murphy

Lois O'Gorman

Jean Shiskin

## Welcome New Members

Kathleen Doody

Peggy Hussain

Deloris M. Johnson

Mozella Lennon



## District 10 Director

954-524-2938

Margarite Falconer

[margaritef@yahoo.com](mailto:margaritef@yahoo.com)



## Save the Date!

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, we will have our annual Scholarship Luncheon at Tropical Acres. Social hour begins at 11:30 and lunch at 12:00.

Guests will have a choice of fish, chicken or beef with salad, desert and coffee/tea. Cost is \$30.00.

Reservation form is on page 6.

## We Need Items For the Raffle!

Don't forget to start saving items for the raffle. I will collect prizes at the December and January meetings and will come by your home to pick up items. *Margarite*



## Get Your Cookbooks!

There are a few of our cookbooks left. Think hostess gifts and stocking stuffers! Pick up one or more at the December meeting!



## Friendship

Chairman: Julia Penley

561-465-2739

jgpen581@aol.com



Thanks to everyone for their help and support as we continue each month to honor the birthdays of our members who are 85+. We ask your help in making sure we don't forget anyone...if you know of a BCREA member who is 85 or older who is not on our list, please notify me. Also, if you know of any member who has passed away recently, please let me know by phone or email so that we may extend our thoughts and prayers to their family. Also, Nancy Ruiz asked me

to extend to everyone her thanks for the many calls, cards and gifts during her past months in the hospital and rehabilitation centers. Last week she was finally able to go home where she will continue to recover with help of a home nurse. She stated that without all her friends at BCREA she would never have been able to endure the past year. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers for her continued recovery and finally getting back to a healthy life again.

*Julia*

## Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz

954-473-9480

Slef123@bellsouth.net



### PLEASE HELP

Your hands and minds are needed to complete book activity cards. These cards make four suggestions: a discussion point, a question, a vocabulary word, and a fun activity. The cards are specific

to each book and guide parents as the read aloud. You can get books and the card template at our December meeting. Please help.

### WANTED

New and gently-used children's books, from preschool to young adult. Ask relatives

## 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



and friends to clean their bookshelves.

Children grow but books don't. There are probably books on the shelves that were enjoyed but are now outgrown. Pass them on to other children. Please bring your book donations to the next meeting. *Sandy*



## BCREA Officers....

President

**Diane Texter**

**954-972-8032**

President-Elect

**Echo Heyer**

**954-523-0661**

Secretary

**Josephine Walker**

**954-742-2430**

Treasurer

**Marelise LeClerc**

**954-962-7343**

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



954-486-2728 • Online at BSCU.org

*Serving Broward Educators Since 1946*

- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

## Scenes at the November meeting!



BrightStar's Marjuree  
Larin and associate Ro-  
land give tips on buying a  
new car!



BCREA member Missy Belsito receives a  
NatureScape Emerald Award for her yard.

## Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$30.00 each

Entrée choices: Prime Rib of Beef  
Stuffed Breast of Chicken  
Broiled Salmon Fillet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée Choice \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send a check made out to BCREA

Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to  
Margarite Falconer  
1625 SE 10th Ave. # 503  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316



Mary Taylor always  
dresses for the season!  
Note the turkey on her  
back!



Frances Smoot gives the  
"Thought for the Day."



Michael Kogan insists  
that you try his culinary  
creations!  
Yummy meatballs this  
month!