

December, 2020

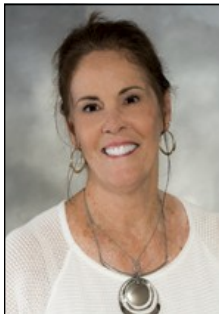
Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 289

## Broward Education Foundation! What a Great Group!

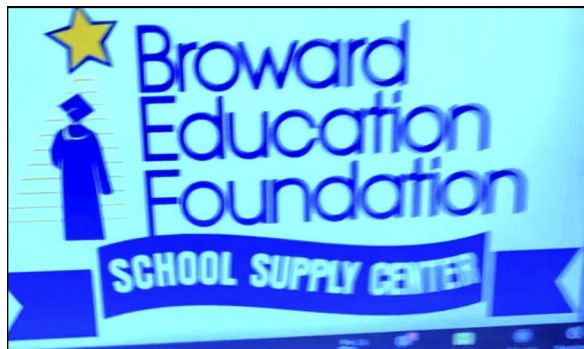
Speaker for the November meeting was **Shea Cirago**. Shea is a graduate of Hollywood Hills HS and has been with the



tives that benefit our community, serve as a catalyst for educational excellence, and provide financial support so our students will be

**Broward Education Foundation** for 8 years and the executive director for 3 years. According to their website, "Broward Education Foundation, incorporated in August 1983, is the direct support organization of Broward County Public Schools. We develop, promote and fund emerging educational initia-

college and career ready. Broward Education Foundation and Office Depot teamed up for the Start Proud! event where they distributed nearly 1,000 brand-new backpacks filled with supplies to Davie Elementary School students on August 17. Each backpack was filled



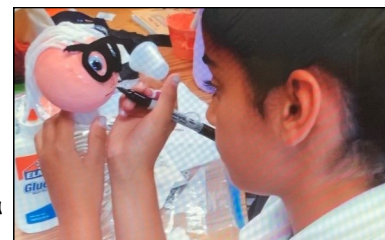
short video showing some of the activities and services and featuring the School Supply Center where teachers can shop for supplies.

with school supplies, including notebooks, composition books, note cards, highlighters, pens, pencils and included one Office Depot® OfficeMax® merchandise card for parents to purchase additional supplies for their child throughout the school year. Among those on hand to distribute the backpacks and welcome students were Superintendent **Robert Runcie** and Board Member and BCREA president-elect **Sue Colton**.

Who qualifies to shop at the School Supply Center? Full-time Teachers from Title I Schools, Music & Art Teachers, Media Specialists, ESE Teachers and PE



Teachers. Both **Suzanne Atkin** and **Lillian Small** have shopped there.



Another project of BEF is **Destination Dorm** which outfits dorm rooms for needy graduating seniors who have experienced homelessness. Started by a BRACE advisor, they did this for more than 100 college kids last year. Claudette Lavoie, BEF Program Director, showed a



For lots more information about this amazing organization, visit their website at <https://browardedfoundation.org> or just have a chat with President-elect **Sue Colton**!

### Important Upcoming Dates!

#### December 3 Meeting

Time: 12:00 Noon Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Place: **Zoom Meeting**

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQclJldz09)  
[pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQclJldz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQclJldz09)

Meeting ID: 291 769 9881

Passcode: **BCREA2020**

**Program: Nerissa Street**

**"The Possibility Guru"**



**December 10: Happy Hanukkah**

**December 25: Merry Christmas**



**December 26: Happy Kwanzaa**



## President's Corner

December seemed so far away when we were all wondering week-by-week about the ambivalence of 2020. The year itself (2020) first caught my eyes as being one that would surely bring a more perfect focus on life and its meaning. Maybe it did to some extent. On the other hand, maybe it didn't. We still have questions and no answers to them. We still need direction and no decisions can be made. We still have things to do that should not be left undone. The focus remains quite blurred and the vision unclear. Yes, December is now here - the last month of this year of uncertainty. The holidays are upon us! Hanukkah - December 10; Christmas - December 25; Kwanzaa - December 26. We can now pause to clear our eyes and reflect on the beauty of this joyous season. We can recapture the days of each celebration though not in the same way. The sounds, smells, gaiety, laughter, singing and shopping will be replaced in many different ways. What remains will be the greatest gift of all - LOVE TRANSCENDING. May each of you enjoy whatever holiday you may celebrate, and have a HAPPY NEW YEAR. May this season bring all of you a More Perfect Vision for the Year 2021.

Lillian



## From the President-Elect

I hope this message finds all of you healthy, calm and safe. As for me, I've been clicking my heels and saying, "There's no place like home" as I am transported back to the America that I know and love! May character, kindness, and love lead us into this joyous holiday season.

Thank you to **Shea Ciriago**, Executive Director of **Broward Education Foundation** (BEF), for her comprehensive presentation of BEF's programs and services. Innovative teacher grants, free school supplies for Title I schools, and scholarships for deserving students in need are three of the major initiatives that are so valuable and relevant for our students, teachers, and Broward County's greater community. We even had a virtual tour of the School Supply Center where our very own member **Mary Taylor** volunteers! Please go to the website, [www.browardedfoundation.org](http://www.browardedfoundation.org) for more information on these programs and exciting upcoming events.

On December 3, we will hear from "**The Possibility Guru**" **Nerissa Street** with her just-in-time-for-the-holidays presentation on Self-Care and Mindfulness. Nerissa is an author, a TEDx speaker, and current teacher of interactive communications at **South Broward High School**. You're going to love her! If you are looking for a safe-distanced and fun evening, Broward Education Foundation cordially invites you to their

**Annual 2020 Distinguished Broward County Public School Alumni Hall of Fame Awards**

on

**Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 pm.**

It will be a Drive-In Theme event held in the expansive parking lot of William T. McFatter Technical College & High School in Davie, FL. (Look Left!)

Did you know that **Carol Roland's** husband, **Michael Roland** was the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Awardee and has his own granite star on the Walk of Fame outside of the K.C. Wright School Board Headquarters?

Sue

Happy Holidays!



## Passages



Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

Lillian Hearn 12/12

Jean Funk 12/18

Panchitta Chisholm 12/19

Toni Merton 12/20

Rosetta Watkins 12/22

Doris Emmett 12/16



In Memoriam

Faye Mullarkey



Barbara Bohuny  
Diane Jarchow



## BCREA 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

## Information Services

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712

matildatwo@aol.com



Ben's  
Bytes...



While the holidays are fast approaching, some of us may experience an increase in a feeling of cabin fever as this is our usual time for family gatherings and reunions with friends. Following are some activities that you might want to investigate.

**Amazon's** Audible store and Kindle offer free e books .

**Libraries in Broward County** have reopened so now is the time to start delving into the DIY section and perhaps start on a new hobby or adventure. (Late fees were suspended in March.)

**Spend time** on your electronic device to take virtual tours any thing from the Louvre to the San Diego Zoo. **You can visit** historic landmarks, museums, art galleries, travel spots, national parks, cities, aquariums and even zoos.

**Don't forget** to share your favorite family/holiday recipes.

**The CDC** encourages those over 65 to be vaccinated this season. Flu season typically runs from October to May. Most insurance companies will pay for your flu immunization. If your doctor recommends a Shingles shot, don't forget that Shingrix is a two-dose series.

**AARP membership** is not just for crossword puzzles! Did you know that you can now receive a free hearing test from [NationalHearing-](http://NationalHearing-)

[Test.org](http://Test.org) with your AARP membership. AARP also offers a free Smart Driver TEK online workshop to help you understand the safety features of the latest cars on the road.

If during the upcoming holiday season, you will be donating to any non profits, [Charitynavigator.org](http://Charitynavigator.org) will assist you with knowing if the organization which you are supporting is worthy of your donation.

A security tip you might try to insure that your banking is safe and secure is to set up a Bank Activity Alert with your financial institution. You can set a limit amount on your account and if a transaction is made over the specified limit, the bank will alert you by text or email that this activity has occurred.

When next we meet on December 3rd, there are 3 holidays to celebrate: Let's Hug Day, National Apple Pie Day and Make a Gift Day. So we can make an apple pie to give as a gift while saying hello with a virtual hug. Happy Holidays to every one during this most unusual season. Stay fit, stay sharp, stay safe and send positive thoughts to others.

**Sallie**

It's 2 AM as I write this. I've spent the last couple of hours using every towel in the house attempting to soak up the water from the storm that added approximately two inches of water to my library which was a garage before we converted it in 1981. Thus, it's lower than the rest of the house and more susceptible to encroaching flood waters. This is the first time in the 42 years I've lived here that it's flooded like this.

It's Wednesday and I've now spent the past 3 days removing water - I estimate I got rid of over 100 pounds and still it was wet. Carpet people came today and removed it. I also discovered that one of my cars got a bit wet too. So, your Newsletter may be a bit later than usual!!

But there are many people much worse off than I. I do hope you aren't one of them! I figure it's better for us to deal with one storm here than for the folks in Louisiana and North Florida to have a 3rd or 4th one! Wear your mask and stay healthy! Have happy holidays - whichever you celebrate! And that's the very last byte for 2020!! **Ben**





## From the Treasurer

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



The holidays are upon us. It is the time for giving. Please remember our Scholarship Fund as you consider your charities this season. If you have a gift check, you can mail it directly to me.

Warmest holiday wished to all, *Marelise*

### Scholarship Donations

#### Donor

Barbara Bohuny  
Linda Gibson  
Linda Marable

Carol Roland

#### In Memory Of

Nancy Ruiz  
Kathlyn Barno  
James Henschel  
and Arlyne Horgan  
Tam James

### Undesignated Donations

Jean Anderson

Kathleen Ginestra

Madeline Levine

Annie Rawls

Pat Schroeder

Carol Fischer

Gloria Jackson

Jackie Molyneux

Joan Schachere

Amada Walker

Hal Wulff

## Membership...

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



FREA continues to keep us up to date on the latest news about our benefits and pension. Interesting workshops on Zoom have been offered from AARP through FREA. Please look for the emails from FREA.

At BCREA our monthly in-person meetings are shut down temporarily. Thankfully, BCREA members continue to renew their memberships. We had several renewals and two new members this past month. All of our members who live out of state have renewed this year. We can all attend a meeting now if we have Zoom!

Do you have a friend who would be interested in joining BCREA? Please encourage them to read our website, or invite them to attend one of our Zoom meetings. A membership form is on the website.

For more information on membership please contact Susan Lochrie ( 954) 525-8503.

Thank you for your loyal support and have a safe and healthy Holiday Season.

*Susan*



### Welcome New Members

Mary Cangemi  
Jackie Molyneux



## Community Service / Handbooks

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



### Community Service

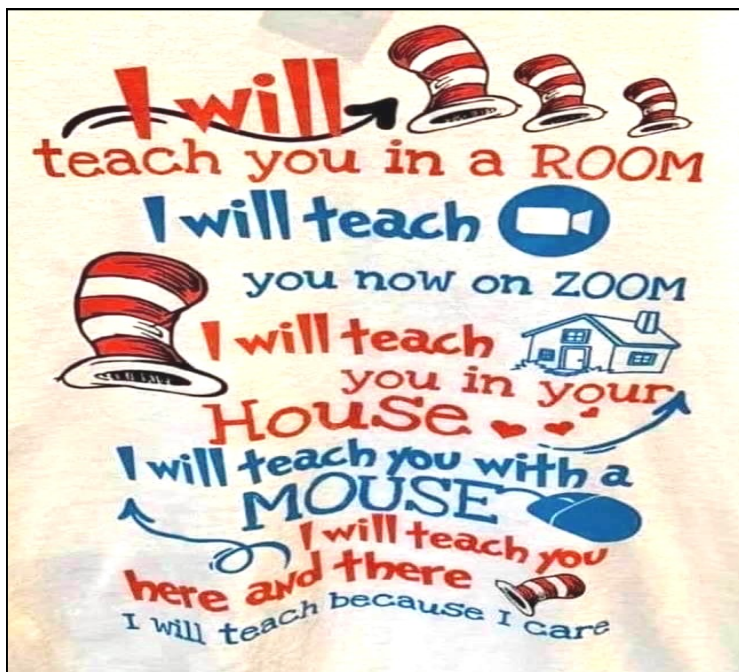
Did you know that the Bureau of Labor Statistics values volunteer service at \$25.17 per hour? That means that the 18,634 hours that we reported to FREA last year amount to \$469,017. I realize that our volunteer service is severely limited by the pandemic this year but please send me any hours that you have accrued (assisting non-relatives, attend-

ing Zoom meetings, working the polls, making phone calls to encourage voting, tutoring on-line, etc.

Hope you & you family have a happy, safe & healthy holiday!

### Handbooks

Hopefully the handbook will be available for pick-up in mid-December - Time & place TBA. As usual, copies will be mailed to out of area members. *Darcy*



## Fund Raising

Chairman: Barbara Lewis  
954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



### Scholarship Dollars! And Membership Handbook Drive-by-Pick-Up

BCREA is having a "Bakeless Bake Sale" to raise money for our scholarship fund. Unfortunately we have not been able to have our monthly meetings and scholarship fundraisers so we are introducing fun activities to raise scholarship money. We want everyone to think about their favorite dessert. In lieu of baking, please make a donation of the amount it would

be to prepare -\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or whatever you would like to donate in increments of \$5. When you pick up your membership book at the drive-through, please put your donation and recipe (if you wish) in an envelope with your name on the outside. The date, time and place will be announced as soon as we know.

Stay tuned. We are also planning some interesting and exciting scholarship fundraiser events for January and February.

*Barbara*

### 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**  
2505 Dahoon Avenue  
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

### FREA SYMPOSIUM 2020

~ NORTHERN ~  
~ CENTRAL ~  
~ SOUTHERN ~



LET'S REACH OUT.  
WE ARE  
STRONGER TOGETHER!

### FREA Holds Regional Zoom Symposiums

The Southern Symposiums were held on October 19 and 20th. One of the important issues discussed at the symposiums dealt with benefits, and particularly insurance.

Enrollment period occurs each year from October 15th through December 7th, with your new coverage beginning January 1st.

During this period you can : change your choice of health coverage, add, drop or change your Medicare drug coverage. Both AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors 1-877-556-4852) and FRG (Florida Retirement Group 1-800-595-8891) have representatives that will assist you in evaluating your present

benefits . Representatives from either company are available to meet with you at your home, over the phone or via ZOOM.

Members who attended included Lillian Small, Sue Colton Karen Avery, Carol Roland, Anne French, Sallie Sherwood, Marelise Le-Clerc, Susan Lochrie and Bev Hoppe.

The Fall Medicare Open

The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by



Call (954)468-2728 or Online at [BSCU.org](http://BSCU.org)

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946





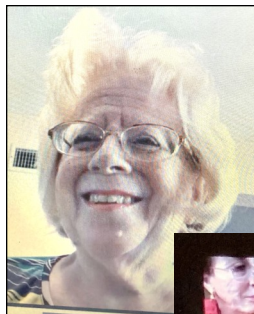
## BCREA NEWSLETTER

Published 8 times a year, September – April by the  
BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
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Plantation, FL 33317

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 409

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

### Scenes at the November Zoom meeting!



Lillian's son  
Brishen Jackson  
helps us with our  
Zoom meetings!  
We couldn't do  
without him!



Alyce Aspler, above  
and new member  
Jackie Molyneux,  
left.

### Just for fun!!

Some artists of the 50's are revising their hits  
with new lyrics to accomodate baby boomers.  
Here's a few:

1. Herman's Hermits- Mrs. Brown you've got a lovely walker.
2. The Bee Gees- How can you mend a broken hip.
3. Bobby Darin- Splish Splash I was Having a flash.
4. Ringo Starr- I'll get by with the help from depends.
5. The Commodores- Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
6. Marvin Gaye- Heard it from the Grape Nuts
7. Leo Sayer- You make me feel like napping.
8. Willie Nelson- On the commode again.
9. Procol Harem- A whiter shade of hair.
10. Johnny Nash- I can't see clearly now.
11. Helen Reddy- I am woman hear me snore.
12. Abba- Denture Queen.



Half of the members at the November meeting! Some don't have their video cameras on - some we can't see them - but they are there!



A Broward  
Education  
Foundation  
project fea-  
tured in the  
video.