

McCall's Minions Make Music Magic at Meeting!

The Apollo Middle School Chorus under the direction of **Bryan McCall** (back, left) entertained members and friends at the December meeting. The chorus, numbering sixteen (12 girls and 4 boys) were nattily attired in their Apollo Middle shirts and were quite the professional group, entering qui-



etly and taking their places in the auditorium. They opened with a rendition of perennial favorite "Silver Bells," and concluded with "Ease On Down the Road." Art teacher **Eamonn Small** (back, right) put on a different hat and served as the driver to transport the 16 chorus members from Apollo.



Help Fill the Pot of Gold

Empty your purses, rob your piggy banks, clean out your pockets, and bring your spare coins to the January Meeting! At the February Scholarship Luncheon, one lucky member will win a Pot of Gold. Last year **LuAnn Comes** won \$104.46. How big will this year's prize be? It depends on you and your coins!



Welcome New Members

Linda Gibson

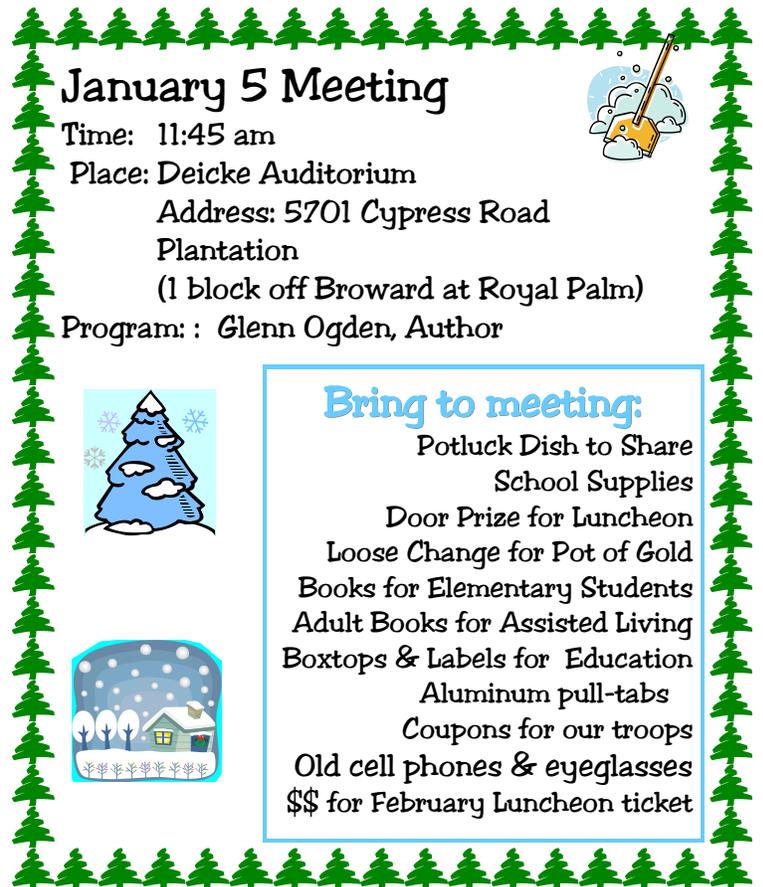


A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sally Macak



Joline Steinfeld



January 5 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am

Place: Deicke Auditorium

Address: 5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: : Glenn Ogden, Author



Bring to meeting:

- Potluck Dish to Share
- School Supplies
- Door Prize for Luncheon
- Loose Change for Pot of Gold
- Books for Elementary Students
- Adult Books for Assisted Living
- Boxtops & Labels for Education
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- Coupons for our troops
- Old cell phones & eyeglasses
- \$\$ for February Luncheon ticket

Save the Date

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11:30 am

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! to all of our over 300 members. We had a really happy December meeting. A very Big Thanks to **Sally Sherwood** and her committee who came up with the "Meet and Greet" activity. Each table had an activity to do before



the meeting began. It said, "Share a story about a memorable gift that you received or one that you gave." I sat down at one table and asked what they had been discussing. **Carmen**

Howerton said that she thought a gift could be something other than what we think of as a present. We all agreed. She said that our fellow member, **Evelyn Greene Morris**, had given her the gift of being an outstanding role model. She went on to tell



us how strong Evelyn is and what an interesting person she is. Carmen was right, these are the presents that really matter.

I asked Evelyn about herself. Well, she taught at **Stranahan High School** from its start. We went on to discuss all the people we knew in common. I asked Evelyn if she would mind if I told how old she is. She said, "No, I'm 90 years old." It was very clear that what Carmen was telling us was true. Evelyn is a gift and quite a gal!

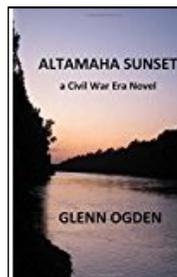
I never would have known this except for the Social Committee's great idea to Meet and Greet. We will continue this next month. I hope you will let me know wonderful things that you learn about each other.

Echo

**HAPPY
New
YEAR!**

From the President-Elect.

For January's meeting, we have a guest speaker from our "BCREA family." Member **Lynne Ogden's** husband, **Glenn**, will be our guest speaker. After retiring Glenn decided to fulfill



another one of his life goals and write a novel. Since then he has written three more novels. Glenn has promised to bring some of his books to sign and sell, or you can find his e-books on Kindle. He will be discussing and answering questions about his books and especially about the process and experiences of writing and publishing books. Please bring those unwanted gifts that you received to our January meeting. We are looking for items that may not be your style, but someone else would love to win. BCREA needs them for the Scholarship Drawing. Remember - we try to keep the banquet cost as low as possible, so the drawings are where BCREA makes most of the money for scholarships.

Carol

Literacy

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



Happy New Year and Happy Reading. Here are some New Year's resolutions to add to your list for 2017.

- * Read a favorite book to a young child. Or take time for you and an older child to read a book together.
- * Donate one new or gently used child's book to our BCREA book box. If everyone brings in one book we will have over 50 books to pass on to children, helping them develop a love for reading.

*Would you like to make room on your bookshelf for some new books? Do you have some books that you have read and would like to pass on? Please bring adult gently used books to the January and March meetings. In April the books will be donated to the Assisted Living Residence in Hollywood, Florida. Literacy has no age limits! Let's help the facility build a library for its residents. **Sandy**

Volunteer Services / Directories

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



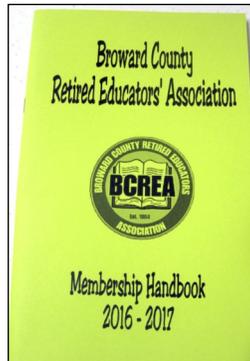
Volunteer Service

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you had a happy holiday & that 2017 will bring you health & happiness.

At our January meeting we will collect school supplies for the Kids in Need Resource Center of the Broward Education Foundation. Basic supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, erasers, scissors, tape, filler paper, notebooks, index cards & binders as well as arts & crafts are needed.

These materials benefit students in low income, under-funded schools. Our very own **Mary Taylor** is a volunteer at the Center! Thanks to those who donated gum & Lifesaver candy last month for our troops.

2016-2017 Membership Handbook /Directory



Copies will be available at all of our meetings including the scholarship luncheon in February. Handbooks will be mailed to members who live out of County & to shut-ins who are unable to attend our meetings.

Darcy

Social Committee

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



What a wonderful ending to the 2016 year! This December luncheon was truly a great event. Everyone seemed to be in good spirits. Many had on their holiday garb and there were friendly greetings and lively conversations.

Thank you to everyone who remembered to take home their left over food and containers. We are missing some brown towels/kitchen mitts that were at the November luncheon. If you accidentally picked up these

items at the November meeting, please return them so we can reunite them with their owner. Also, we found a serving spoon which does not belong to BCREA. If you are missing a spoon, please inform a member of the Social Committee.

No matter which holiday you celebrate, your Social Committee wishes you a joyful and peaceful season.

See you in 2017... Happy New Year from your Social Committee.

Sallie

Passages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Thinking of You

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

Nancy Sword 1/01
Beverly Merrill 1/03
Claudia Finlayson, 1/23
Norma Van Buskirk 1/23
Wilise Langford 1/25

Diane Jarchow
Gloria Marshall
Rochelle Stunson



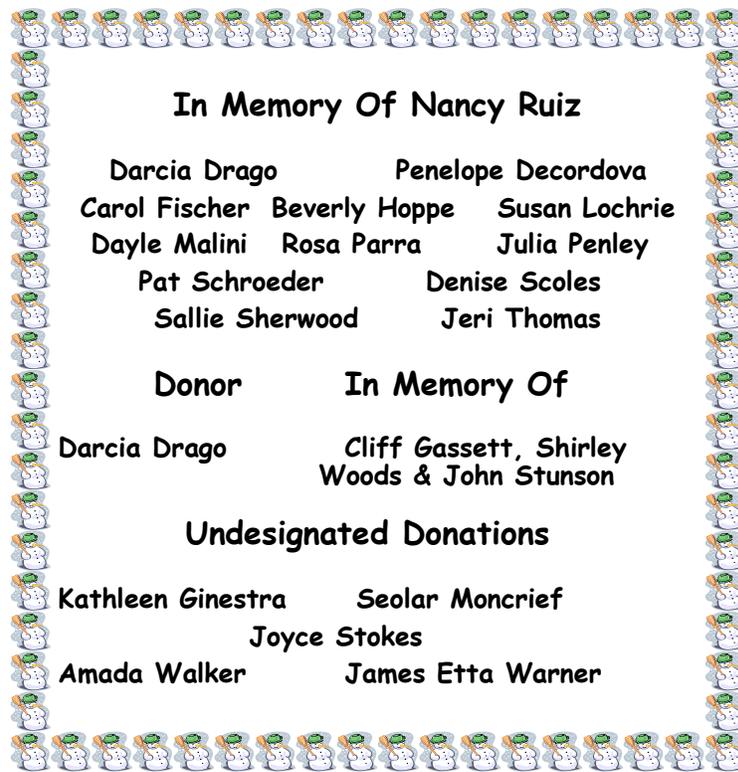
In Memoriam
Beverly Williams

From the Treasurer

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



Recently one of our very active members succumbed to a long illness. **Nancy Ruiz** was loved by many. Her brother asked, in lieu of flowers, that friends contribute to the BCREA. As a result, there have been many contributions. Some of Nancy's friends are trying to reach a goal of \$1000 in order to name a scholarship in Nancy's memory. As you contribute, please consider naming Nancy as a recipient of your generosity. Thus far, \$760 has been collected. The following people have contributed to BCREA in memory of Nancy:



In Memory Of Nancy Ruiz

Darcia Drago Penelope Decordova
Carol Fischer Beverly Hoppe Susan Lochrie
Dayle Malini Rosa Parra Julia Penley
Pat Schroeder Denise Scoles
Sallie Sherwood Jeri Thomas

Donor In Memory Of

Darcia Drago Cliff Gasset, Shirley Woods & John Stunson

Undesignated Donations

Kathleen Ginestra Seolar Moncrief
Joyce Stokes
Amada Walker James Etta Warner

Friendship

Chairman: Julia Penley

561-465-2739

jpgpen581@aol.com



I hope everyone has a very Happy Holiday season! As we look back in 2016, we remember our members who passed away, and those who lost family members such as **Arline Ziller** who lost her son, and **Rochelle Stunson** who recently lost her husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. One special member we lost this year was my dear friend, Nancy Ruiz, who passed away in November after battling a long and difficult illness. A scholarship fund has been created in her name which will be given to a high school student in May. Also, **Beverly Williams** passed away during a trip to Australia.

Some happy news now - Birthday Club member **Wilise Langford** who will be 96 on January 25 attended the December meeting - her first in many years! She looks more like a retired fashion model than a retired educator! Below is the little note **Sallie Sherwood** wrote to attach to the new member gifts! Again.....Happy New Year to everyone!!! See you in January!!



Julia

Information Services

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno

954-581-4731

BB9214@aol.com



Greetings of the new year. Hopefully all of us are returning from a wonderful holiday season. Now we are ready to enter the seventeenth year of the twenty-first century. My how time flies! We have made our resolutions and are well on the way of carrying them out. In the midst of our enthusiasm don't forget one important date that is coming up soon - income tax. Start early getting all of your papers together so that when you are ready to file, every thing is in order.

Unfortunately with all the tourists who come down to enjoy our beautiful weather also come the unsavory persons who are prepared to

commit fraud. One of the schemes is to mail you a letter stating that you have won a million dollar prize but you must pay a fee to receive it. The United States Postal Service and the U. S. Department of Justice warn people of this kind of fraud. You are never required to pay a fee to receive a prize. Another scam is to call a person saying that you owe the IRS back taxes They will tell you to pay by purchasing an iTunes card and put what you owe on it. Then you are told to call back and provide the 16-digit code that is on the card to complete the payment. The scammer then sells the code on the black market and pockets the cash. The IRS does not accept iTunes cards as payment.

Stay alert. Be safe. Happy New Year. *Kathlyn*



The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:

Bright Star CREDIT UNION

954-486-2728 • Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946

BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
(Please Print)

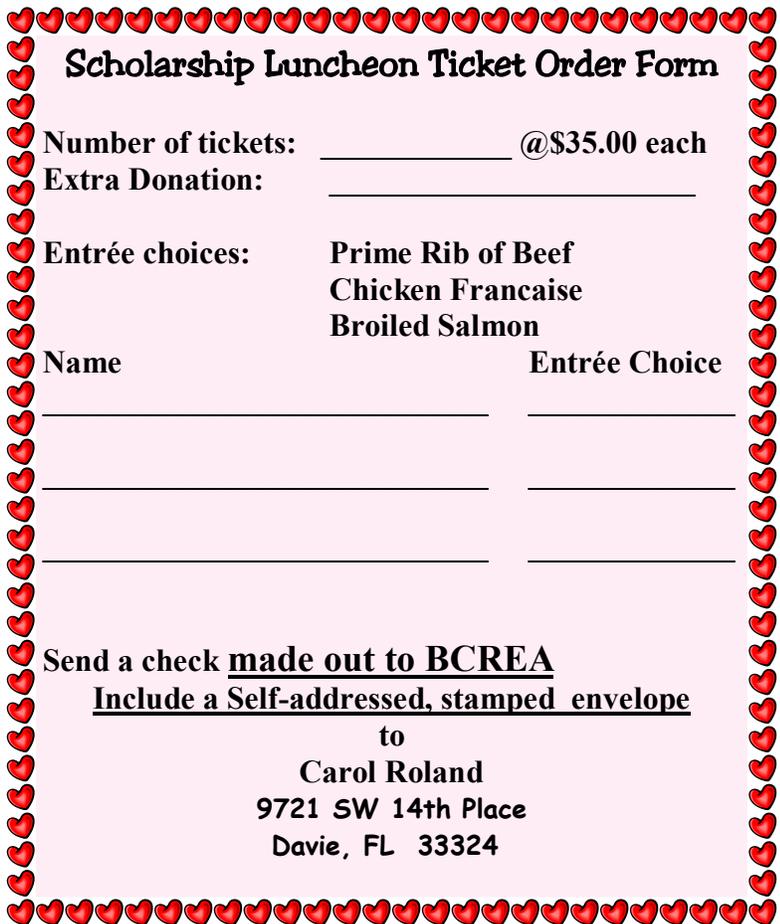
Month _____, 20____

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
4346 Carambola Circle North
Coconut Creek, FL 33066



Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @ \$35.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: **Prime Rib of Beef**
Chicken Francaise
Broiled Salmon

Name	Entrée Choice
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Send a check made out to BCREA
Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to
Carol Roland
9721 SW 14th Place
Davie, FL 33324

Hospitality Co-Chairman **Pat Schroder** reported that there were 73 members and guests in attendance at the December meeting. In the Scholarship Fundraiser **Susan Smiler** won \$20; those receiving \$10 each were **Joyce Hawkins, Amada**



Walker and Kathlyn Barno. Winning a Christmas stocking donated by **Michael Phillips** was **Karen Avery**; winners of the flowers donated by **Carol Roland** were **Jannes Strauch** and **Joyce Stokes.**

Happy 2017!

Bev



Bev's Bytes.....

I was stunned to learn that **Bev Williams** died suddenly of a massive heart attack. I had just "chatted" with her via email when we were working on the Directory - she told me she wouldn't be at the December meeting as she'd be in Australia and then in January she was moving to Kentucky. We just never know what lies ahead - and, probably that's good. **Josephine Walker** and **Gloria Marshall** were both under the weather; **Diane Jarchow** broke her ankle and will be immobile for a while. **Steve Thacker** is happy - **Julie Biancardi** may become a guardian ad litem. I really liked the nicely printed nametags the Hospitality Committee did this month. Sometimes nametags are hard to read! And the cool plaid nametags the Social Committee wore were great! **Michael Kogan's** shirt was even color coordinated. What a great group of kids from Apollo Middle School - I don't think we've ever had a better behaved group to entertain us. Thanks to new member **Byron Langenfass** for stepping up to the plate to take charge when the Apollo music teacher was delayed. It was a perfect fit since Byron is a retired music teacher!



Survey Results: Japanese Gardens During the Winter Wins

Members voted that they would most like to visit Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens during a cool month. So we have scheduled that as our first trip of the year. We will meet there on **Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:00** to tour the gardens and then meet up for lunch at the Cornell Cafe. Tickets are \$13.00 (if you are a Morikami Member it is free). **Carol Roland** will send out full information to all members who completed the survey and expressed an interest in attending. If you forgot or did not complete the survey, e-mail her at carolrbeads@aol.com. Also, are you willing to serve as the Cultural Affairs Chairperson? Contact **Echo Heyer**. If not, would you be willing to serve on the Cultural Affairs Committee? We really need help. E-mail or call Echo.

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

Legislative

Chairman: Nancy Adams

954-784-7128

NancyannBR@aol.com



The recent election brings new members to Tallahassee, so it will take a little time to get these freshmen assimilated and for bills to be solidified and be ready for the opening session in March. One of the main retirement issues will continue to be our teachers pension system. Although reports over the last two years point out that Florida is better off with a defined benefits system (87% funded) our legislators would like to replace it with a defined contribution plan (401K). This would apply to all new teachers entering the system. Nurses, highway patrol officers, judges and legislators are also in FRS. So far no mention has been made of our cola or

health insurance subsidy, but it's early. Stay tuned. At the Federal level, efforts to break up Medicare and to privatize Social Security are being openly discussed by legislative leaders who favor such action. The election has given more power to these ideas. Also, charter schools will get more attention and funding due to the appointment of a Secretary of Education who has been and will be continuing to work at the national level on this agenda. In summary, for the time being, the word is that pensions go, charter schools grow and Social Security and Medicare are being threatened with privatization.

FREF Extravaganza
Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for a Chance to WIN:
 \$500 Cash - 1st Prize
 \$300 Cash - 2nd Prize
 \$200 Cash - 3rd Prize
 \$100 Cash Guaranteed Prize to a winner in District 10:
 Dade, Broward or Palm Beach.

Donations are used to fund scholarships for future Florida teachers. Buy Tickets at the January - March meetings or fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Anne French
1017 NE 28 Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33334

Make your check payable to FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation).

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____



**Seen at the
 December
 Meeting**

