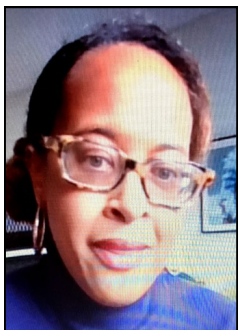


Guru Nerissa & Holiday Exposé Share December Meeting



According to the "Possibility Guru" Nerissa Street, "Teaching is one of the most

acrobatic of professions."

They must be flexible enough to deal with the ever changing scenes. Teachers are community leaders and classrooms are the community.

"Overwhelmed by traumatic school-based events, 'active killer' training, and ever-changing high-stakes testing, public school teachers may feel stepping into a classroom is a life-altering decision. It's certainly an emotional one."

Zoom is a new kind of community.





She emphasized the idea that teachers must first take care of themselves in order to be useful to their students.

"Teachers who are cared for benefit the world," she proclaimed.

When conducting her workshop, "High Touch to High Tech," she has a list of questions for participants:

1. Who are you (and who am I?)
2. Why are you here?
3. What do you need from this meeting?
4. What is self care as it relates to service?

5. How do we apply it?
 6. What will you do after this meeting?
- She took both verbal answers as well as "chat" responses to some of these from participants. She ended with the following 4 questions for members to ponder as part of their own self-help:

	I feel most alive when...
	I feel safe when...
	[blank] makes me laugh...
	My fear makes me...

Nerissa has been professionally and academically trained in Theatre, Digital Media, Business, and Adult Education. She was named the 2017 Broward County Arts Teacher of the Year in Theatre, and a 2017 Broward Woman of Distinction. She is the author of her own book,

"31 Days of Yes."

And she is currently a full time Interactive Communications teacher at South Broward High School.

A fun fact — she also loves mangoes!



Next, Karen Avery told the Christmas story followed by Lillian Small who discussed

Beginning with Sandy Lefkowitz's explanation of Hanukkah, members learned about each of the 4 holidays we will be celebrating this month.

Kwanzaa; Carol Roland finished with New Year's - which will hopefully lead us into a brand new and better year than 2020 has been.

The Drive-By is Coming! The Drive-By is Coming!
-- Pick up your 20-21 Handbook -- Turn in your Bakeless Bake Sale Donation--Drop off Birthday, Get-Well and Sympathy Cards for Marsy --Drop off pop tops and service hour reports for Darcy - Place and time TBA!

January 7 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: Kerry Ann Brown
Guardian ad Litem



President's Corner

2020! PAST TENSE. GONE!!

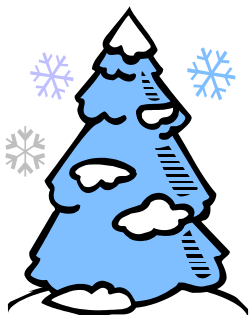
Joined the ranks of the yester-years. It has GONE and taken with it many trials, tribulations; heartaches, pains, suffering, grief, despair, tainted memories. That's how we will remember most of it. GOODBYE 2020.

Though it takes with it a myriad of unrelenting harsh realities, much of which we would love to forget, the truth that remains is, we are the sum total of all our life experiences. It cannot be erased.

The year has left indelible markings on our collective memories. Each of our lives will inevitably be shaped in some manner to reflect all of which we experienced through our days in 2020. Many of our future references and perspectives on life itself will have some of the remnants of this past year. Can it be that through it all, there were some joyful and happy moments? Some reasons to smile? Some lessons learned? Some blessings - even.

Thinking back, we can be thankful that the orderly universe stepped in a few years ahead of 2020 and ushered in a Technological Age with just the perfect fittings we needed to endure. Church and its related events could be attended, clubs and organizations were accessible, visiting friends and family as well as shopping and dining with CDC advice, all in our technological slant called the "new norm." Somewhere in this conglomerate of things to do, we found our reasons for joy and happiness, adding some of our own "cabin fever" release activities. My special release was a ride to the beach for the sunrise.

As December arrived we were still "in the woods" but could celebrate our holidays with gladness for having survived. Yes, we were all blessed to be alive to enjoy and spread joy. So, it is a great joy to WELCOME 2021!! We look forward to new grace and mercies for the next 365 days.
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!



Lillian



From the President-Elect.

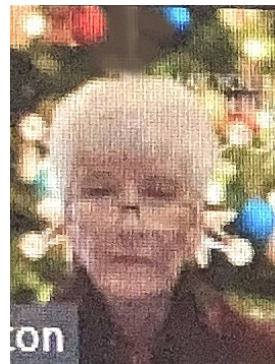
Who knew that I would be happy to no longer have "2020 vision" if you know what I mean! My 2021 new year's wish is for the respect for educators and public schools to return so that we may continue our important work for children and families with fidelity.

We thank **Nerissa Street** for her engaging presentation "From High Touch to High Tech: Making Room for Yourself and Your Service in a World Full of Screens" at our December 3 Zoom meeting. In our teacher world with the importance of relationship-building, Nerissa provided us with a plethora of personal pointers for giving ourselves grace and space in our current remote learning environment. You can find her on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and her new podcast "10,000 women 10,000 stages" on listen.notes.com

See you again on January 7th when we welcome back **Kerry Ann Brown** our gal from the GAL Program (Guardian Ad Litem Broward-17th Judicial).

Happy New Year!

Sue



Community Services / Handbooks

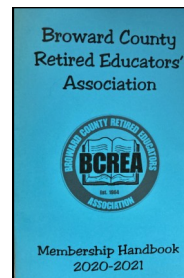
Chairman: Darcia Drago
954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Volunteer Service

Happy New Year everyone! Wishing you all health & happiness in the coming year. Hopefully 2021 will be better in every way than 2020 was. Please make a New Year's resolution to send in your community service hours to me.

Handbook /Directory
The handbook/directories



are ready for pickup. Details about the distribution schedule will be forthcoming soon.

Pickup will be combined with our "Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser. *Darcy*

Information Services

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712

matildatwo@aol.com



Finally!!

Goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021! Last year was certainly full of surprises, stress and uncertainty. Now, it is time to begin a successful transition into a new year. New Year's Resolution time is here again! If you didn't accomplish items on your last year's "to do list," now is the time. The sooner you can complete the undone tasks of 2020, the sooner you will have a favorable passage into the hopefully brighter and healthier New Year. Hopefully, the incoming year will be filled with positive and successful practices to make our lives a little easier with less stress. Begin the year by setting your procrastination practices on the back burner. Even though we should be trying to embrace technology (Hello Zoom), it would also be nice to send a handwritten birthday card, a thank-you note or even a letter to someone. An arti-

cle in *Psychology Today* states that handwritten notes make both the sender and the recipient feel special. One of the items on your agenda for 2021 is your Income Tax preparation. Remember to be mindful that IRS scams are on the increase during this time. While we will still be practicing safety protocols for a little while longer, continue to find activities that will improve both body and spirit. Check with local libraries, cities, park or universities for activities that you can join remotely or with social distancing. When next we meet, it will be national "I'm Not Going to Take It Any-more Day" shared with "National Bobblehead Day," both days seem very fitting at this time! Welcome to 2021 and Happy New Year to everyone.

Stay fit, stay sharp, stay safe and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie

Passages



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

Beverly Merrill 1/03
Norma Van Buskirk 1/23



Thinking of You

Mary Bedard
Echo Heyer
Thelma Lewis
Martha Pipes

From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc

954-962-7343 Flsun1@comcast.net



A special thanks to all our charitable donors, especially during this difficult time we are experiencing with Covid 19. As with everything around us, our Scholarship Fund is much less this year. Our membership is down because of the virus, which means fewer people donating. In addition, because we are not having face-to-face meetings, we aren't collecting any monies for scholarships. That is why we are hoping that you will be kind in giving a little, as you pick up your directory in the near future. Cash is fine. Please put your name on the envelope so you can be recognized for your generosity. Kudos to the following recent donors:

Marelise

Scholarship Donations

Donor

In Memory Of

Rachel Weidner

Faye Mullarkey

Kathy Salley

Faye Mullarkey

Trebein Elementary Staff

Faye Mullarkey

Undesignated Donations

Alice Bell

Sheryl (Jane) Keyes

Byron Langenfass

Lucille Morris

Joy Prescott

Joni Schachere

The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by

Bright Star
CREDIT UNION

Call (954)468-2728 or Online at BSCU.org

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Legislative

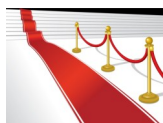
Chairman: Carol Roland
954-472-2389 CAROLRBEADS@aol.com



2021-2022 Florida Senators and Representatives for Broward County

District	Senators	e-mail	Tallahassee phone	local phone	coverage area
D. 29	Sen Tina Polsky	www.flsenate.gov/senators/s29	850 487-5029	561 443-8170	Broward/WPB
D. 32	Sen. Lauren Book	www.flsenate.gov/senators/s32	850 487-5032	954 424-6674	Broward
D. 33	Sen. Perry Thurston	www.flsenate.gov/senators/s33	850 487-5033	954 321-2705	Broward
D. 34	Sen Gary Farmer	www.flsenate.gov/senators/s34	850 487-5034	954 467-4227	Broward
D. 35	Sen "Shev" Jones	www.flsenate.gov/senator/s35	850 487-5035	954 893-5010	Broward/Dade

District	Representatives	e-mail	Tallahassee phone	local phone	coverage area
D. 92	Rep. Patricia Williams	Pat.Williams@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5092	954 202-3201	Broward
D. 93	Rep Chip Lamarca	Chip.Lamarca@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5093	954 784.4531	Broward
D. 94	Rep Bobby DuBose	Bobby.DuBose@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5094	954 467-4206	Broward
D. 95	Rep Anika Omphoy	Anika.Omphoy@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5095	954 747-7933	Broward
D. 96	Rep. C. Hunschofsky	Christine.Hunschofsky@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5096	954 956-5600	Broward
D. 98	Rep Michael Gottlieb	Michael.Gottlieb@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5098	954 424-6812	Broward
D. 99	Rep. Ken Jenne	Evan.Jenne@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5099	954 893-5000	Broward
D. 100	Rep. Joseph Geller	Joseph.Geller@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5100	954 924-3708	Broward /Dade
D. 101	Rep. Marie Woodson	Marie.Woodson@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5101		Broward
D. 102	Rep Felicia Simone	Felicia.Simone@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5102	305 620-3711	Broward/Dade
D. 103	Rep Tom Fabrico	Tom.Fabrico@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5103		Broward/Dade
D. 104	Rep. Robin Bartleman	Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov	850 717-5104		Broward



Welcome New Member
Lucille Morris

Membership...

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



REACH OUT TO FRIENDS AND TELL THEM ABOUT BCREA

The mission of Broward County Retired Educators Association is the same even if we can't meet in person. We continue to have interesting topics at our monthly meetings by Zoom. We continue to have a Newsletter and a BCREA website which keeps us up to date. We continue to raise funds for college scholarships for future teachers. We continue to volunteer where and when we can. We continue to have Legislative Committee members who keep a watch on State Legislation that affects our pensions as retirees. We continue our affiliation with Florida Retired Educators Association. To tell others about joining BCREA please share the BCREA website: browardrea.org or contact me at slochrie@bellsouth.net, Phone: 954-5258503. I'll send information to their home address.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Doris Emmett sends a BIG HELLO to BCREA members. Doris was BCREA President in 1997-99 and she was Treasurer for over ten years. She retired from Ft. Lauderdale High School as a Business Education teacher. Doris now lives at a retirement community in Pompano Beach in the independent living area. Many of the social aspects of her life have been curtailed and we can identify with that feeling. We hope that within the next year, with most people getting a vaccine, we will see our social lives return.

Susan

Bev's Bytes.....

We had 42 in attendance at the December Zoom meeting - a new high number! This included **Nina Hansen** who lives in Arizona and **Julia Penley** who's in Colorado. It was nice to see **Rosetta Watkins, Charles**



Webster, Jill Wilson, and finally **Frances Smoot** who's been trying unsuccessfully to log on to the 2 previous meetings!

Congratulations to **Toni Merton** who turns 99 on December 20!

From Telephone Committee Chairman **Suzanne Atkin** - "**Mary Bedard** lives in Texas but maintains her membership. Her husband has Parkinson's and it's been hard on her. **Echo Heyer** has been having problems with her vision. **Thelma Lewis** has a sick husband and has requested masks for her 8 grandkids. **Martha Pipes'** daughter had a stroke last year, and she is taking care of her. That's all for now."

Anne French reports that she has received 40 Extravaganza tickets to sell. Coupon is below! And even better news, Anne herself was one of last year's Extravaganza winners! She won 2nd place and received \$300!

Happy 2021!

Bev

FREF Scholarship Extravaganza

Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for 2 Chances to win:

First, you will be in the District drawing for a \$100 winner in Broward, Dade or Palm Beach.

Second, you will have a chance to win:

\$500 Cash - 1st Prize

\$300 Cash - 2nd Prize

\$200 Cash - 3rd Prize

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 _____

All donations will be used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.

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)

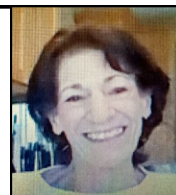
Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

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

Literacy

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



Our new best friend is ZOOM. I have to thank Lillian Small for facing the COVID challenge and adapting our meetings so we are still able to gather and enjoy each other's company. This has been a challenging year and I know we all look forward to January 2022. Yes, I hope by 2022 we will be back to normal: collecting children's books, encouraging 5th graders to write an essay, and reading to preschoolers.

As we begin 2021, let's take time to enjoy memories and give thanks for friends and good health. Be sure to pamper yourself: read a good book, feast on a favorite food, tackle a new recipe, enjoy a movie with homemade popcorn, smile and laugh. I've come across a phrase that may become my motto for the new year. It goes like this:

"I am going to start cleaning the house. And by cleaning, I mean reading a great book and spraying everything with Febreze."

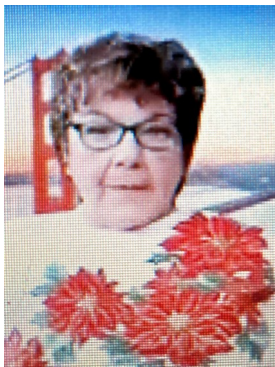
Happy New Year to You, **Sandy**



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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Seen at the
December Meeting -
Members in the holiday
spirit!
And some participants at
the Zoom meeting

