

January, 2023

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 306

## Plantation Park Choristers Wow BCREA



According to their website, **Plantation Park Singers Chorus** is a fun, honorary, academic enrichment program that fosters individual growth through beautiful singing. The choir performs 2-3 major concerts per year & rehearses after school 1-2 days per week.

PPE's Chorus has earned 1st Place &/or Superior ratings at state & local music competitions since 2000, & is well-known throughout Florida. They entertained BCREA at the December meeting with a variety of

holiday songs and earned a standing ovation. If you missed their show or just want to see more of them, they will present their holiday concert on **December 20 at 6:30 at South Plantation HS auditorium.**

**From Luncheon Chair Diane Texter**

**Save the Date**

**Annual Scholarship Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023, 11:30 am**

**Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road**

**Tickets are \$43 and will be sold at the**

**January meeting or**

**Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 5.**

**If you have new or "like new" items to donate for our scholarship fundraiser please bring them to the January meeting**

**Our theme this year is "Hooray for Hats" so choose your favorite hat to wear!**

### January 5 Meeting

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Place:** Jim Ward Community Center  
301 NW 46 Avenue  
Plantation

**Program:** Author Patricia Hartman -

"Everyone has a story. What's yours?"



### Bring to meeting:

#### Potluck Picnic Food

Items for Luncheon Baskets  
Loose Change for Pot of Gold  
Aluminum pull-tabs  
Old cell phones & eyeglasses  
\$\$ for February Luncheon ticket





## President's Corner

What a delightful Christmas, Hanukkah, and Holiday Program presented by Director **Nicole M. Gregg** and the **Plantation Park Elementary "Senior Choristers"** at our



December meeting! This award-winning group has performed at Disney, sung the National Anthem at a Marlins game, and is scheduled to compete at Universal Studios in the Spring. Check out their website: <https://www.musicmakerscamp.com/plantation-park-singers-chorus/> Thank you to these polished performers for brightening our holiday season! As a follow-up to my President/Legislative report, download the Broward County Legislative Directory at <https://www.broward.org/Legislative/Documents/LDDirectory.pdf> and bookmark <https://www.frea.org/legislative-advocacy/> to find a wealth of information on our Florida Retired Educators' Association Legislative Priorities. The 2023 Legislative Session begins on March 7, but committees will start to meet and file new bills from December - February. We'll keep you posted and up to date, so we continue to protect our Florida Retirement System Earned Benefits, promote Public Education and accountability for state funding, and advocate health and welfare issues for seniors. Enjoy your holidays with family and friends, and celebrate a Happy New Year for 2023. *Sue*

## From the President-Elect

"Everyone has a story. What's yours?"

Local author, **Patricia Hartman**, will be posing this question to the group at our January meeting. I expect fascinating life stories from members. I cannot wait. Mrs. Hartman has authored several books including ***Poisoned***, the first in a planned series of mysteries set in West Virginia. If you want to read ***Poisoned*** before the meeting, it is available from Amazon in both paperback and Kindle formats. She will also have books at the meeting. In addition to writing, she is a forensic CPA. To continue the reading theme at our meeting, we will also have a book exchange. Plan to bring a book to share and you will be able to take one for your personal reading pleasure. See Literacy Chair, **Sandy Lefkowitz's**, article for further details.

At the February luncheon (Thursday, February 2, 2023), the biggest fundraiser for local scholarships is our Gift Basket Extravaganza. Bring your treasures to the January meeting (no used items or junk, please!). Remember gift cards are EXTREMELY popular!

We need baskets! Please also bring baskets (or like containers) to the January meeting. If necessary, items and baskets can be dropped off at my house. FYI- Luncheon tickets will be sold at the January meeting, or you can order tickets using the form on page 5.

Mark your calendar for **1 PM on Sunday, January 29**. Affectionately titled "Controlled Chaos," this is when we will put together the baskets at my house. This is a fun work session with lots of laughs and delicious treats! Please RSVP that you can help and to get directions.

**Anne French**  
1017 NE 28 Drive  
Wilton Manors 33334  
954-579-1719  
[annefrench10@gmail.com](mailto:annefrench10@gmail.com)

Happy Holidays to all and I look forward to seeing you in 2023!

*Anne*



The singers received "swag bags" as a reward for a fine performance.

## Volunteer Services / Handbooks

Chair: Darcia Drago

954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



### Volunteer Service

Many thanks from the Broward Education Foundation for our donation of school supplies at our December meeting.

What services qualify for volunteer hours? Any unpaid services to individuals,

groups, or entire communities are eligible.

Some examples:

- \* judging contests,
- \* tutoring & mentoring (virtual & non-virtual),



- \* church related work,
- \* serving on civic committees & boards ( including BCREA & HOA),
- \* Zoom meetings, conference calls &
- \* volunteering at a nursing home or hospital.
- \* Preparation & travel time also count.

Does time spent caring for family members qualify? While this is important, these activities are family obligations & would not qualify as volunteer hours. Please remember to turn in any unreported hours for

### Information Services

Chair: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



Some of us may wonder, "Where did the last few years go!" As we turn the calendar page, January brings both new hopes and challenges and we begin to reflect on what occurs next. Now is the time to hopefully push our reset button and begin 2023 with a new attitude, experiences and positive actions to increase our happiness. January can claim fame as being tagged **National Celebration of Life Month**. Along with developing our list of "New Year's Resolutions," January is also the time to sit back and take note of what we have in our life, the people that

we care for and are influenced by, and to feel gratitude and celebrate every day we have.

An **IHeart Caregiver Services** article advises us to "Appreciate all that life has to offer both the good and the bad as they are part of living. Start a new habit this year of setting aside time to appreciate and celebrate life everyday." Examples of ways we can do this are: take a mental health day, fill a "Gratitude Jar" with what we are most thankful for, begin a new hobby, set apart a time to visit or speak with family, friends

2022 as I am closing out the books for our annual report to FREA. You might even win the prize for volunteer hours - like **Cindy O'Linn** did at the December meeting.

Wishing you & your family health & happiness in 2023!



or neighbors. Also, part of celebrating ourselves can be achieved by helping others. At the last meeting, **Darcy Drago** reviewed many activities that could be included in our BCREA Volunteer Hours. A National Library of Medicine article by Larry Dossey entitled "The Helper's High" confirmed, through several studies, that positive emotions followed selfless service and generosity to others. When we reflect on how we have assisted others, we need to celebrate our actions and our lives. National Celebration of Life month is a great reminder to start off the new year celebrating YOUR life everyday. Stay fit, stay sharp, stay safe and send positive thoughts to others. Welcome and appreciate 2023! *Sallie*

## Passages

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy Birthday to our Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

**Beverly Merrill 1/03**

**Emma Black 1/08**

**Jacqueline Hall 1/23**

And turning 85 this year

**Maxine Boggy 1/13**



Thinking of You

**Pauline Green**

**Rosa Parra**

**Arline Ziller**



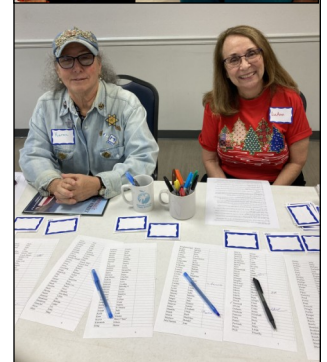
In Memoriam

**Mary Lou Deering**

**11/11/22**

**Robert Green**

**10/31/22**





## Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott  
954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



## Pot Luck Lunch Returns

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season with friends and family. As we enter a new year and slowly make our way back to pre-COVID times, BCREA will make some changes. The board has decided to return to our Pot Luck luncheon. Due to the much smaller kitchen at Jim Ward, we are asking that you bring "picnic foods" such as

**appetizers, salads, fried chicken, small sandwiches and desserts.**

National Chocolate Cake day is on January 27 so perhaps one of you would like to help

us get a jump on the celebration! The ability to keep food items warm is very limited which is the Board's reason for asking you to not bring hot items for the luncheon. Of course, if you are uncomfortable eating from the buffet table, you can continue to BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). Water, soda and coffee will be provided by the Social Committee. We are looking forward to this return to normalcy at our meetings and hope to see you on January 5. *Marianne*

## Membership...

Chair: Susan Lochrie 954-494-8204  
or slochrie@bellsouth.net



Last year, the FREA passed the 10,000 State Membership Mark with local Units and AMBA Benefits member partners. In 2021 State membership through local units was 3,434. State membership (AMBA Benefit Partners and Members-At-Large) was 9,027. If you have joined BCREA but have never come to a meeting bring a friend to

come with you. Tell others about joining by sharing the website: [browardrea.org](http://browardrea.org). You can contact me at slochrie@bellsouth.net. I will send information to their home address. Collection of dues for the upcoming 2023-2024 year will begin in February 2023. A dues form will be in the February Newsletter.

**Susan**

## Welcome New Members

Sondra Goldberg

Wilma Taylor

Maureen Thomas



## From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc

954-962-7343

Flsun1@comcast.net



A Happy and Healthy New Year to our members and their families. Many blessings to all in 2023. May it be your BEST year ever! Much gratitude to the following recent donors:

### DONOR

Karen Avery  
Susan Whiting

### IN MEMORY OF:

Alma Collins  
Juliet Cardillo

### UNDESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS:

LuAnn Comes	Nina Hansen	Denise Jones
Rosemary McGarry	Carol Pratt	Carol Roland
Leona Sturup	Diane Texter	Pierrette Theriault



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every time

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## Literacy

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



When I sat down to write this article several things circled in my mind. Some sad concerns and some heartening highlights pop into my head.

When I wrote a news article in 2017, it was two days after the massacre in Redlands, CA. where 14 people died after a community rampage. Since then I could name Sandy Hook, Parkland FL., Orlando Pulse Night Club, Buffalo supermarket, Robb Elementary School and I could go on and on. Shocking and sad. It does remind me of how important literacy is. Our children must be independent readers and critical thinkers. Our children need to be knowledgeable and tolerant of different viewpoints. If we can put books in children's hands, we will help them and help our world. And banning

books is not the answer. So please do your share. Continue donating new or gently used books and donating to our No-bake Bake Sale to purchase new books. Advocate for books. Thanks for helping our youth. Some heartening news is your robust desire to read and enrich your own lives. At the January meeting we will have an adult book exchange. Here are some guidelines to follow: Bring one book to give away and take one book home with you. If someone does not choose your book then you are to take it back home and share it somewhere else.

We'll spend a few minutes at the meeting to socialize and trade books. Exciting that you will go home with something new to read; no cost involved.

Wishing you a happy New Year and happy reading,

*Sandy*

*Bev's Bytes.....* I had a nice note from Past-President **Madeline Martin** who now lives in Vermont but is still a member of BCREA. Full of energy as always, she's also a member of the Vermont REA and attends school board meetings. She sends holiday greetings to BCREA! President **Sue** is off to Ireland for a Christmas holiday and **Carol Roland** will be in NC as usual.



Our thoughts are with **Rosa Parra** whose husband is recovering from a heart attack. New FREF chair **Shirley Swartz** has received 40 Extravaganza tickets which

## Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$43.00 each  
Extra Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée choices: **Prime Rib of Beef**  
**Broiled Salmon Filet**

Name	Entrée Choice
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

to  
**Diane Texter**  
742 NW 69 Terrace  
Margate, FL 33063

she'll be selling at the January meeting. Or you can order some using the coupon on page 6. Winners in the Scholarship



fund-raiser were L-R \$20, **Josephine Walker**; and \$10

each - **Bev Hoppe, Joyce Stokes and Brenda Roberts**. Winning flowers were **JamesEtta Warner, Mozella Lennon, Darlene Pillsbury and Marelise LeClerc**, Thanks again to **Carol Roland** for donating the flowers. **LuAnn Comes** reports



52 in attendance. It was great to see some people who have been absent for a while. And that's the last byte for the first month of 2023!



*Bev*

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1040 SW 52 Avenue  
Plantation, FL 33317

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 409

- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

### Seen at the December Meeting



#### 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

#### 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:

Shirley Swartz  
1921 SW 52 Terrace  
Plantation, FL 33317

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_