

BCREA



Newsletter



March, 2023

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 308

Hooray for Hats - and Also for Books About Hats!



Mary Ellen Fowler opened the February Luncheon with an original "Thought for the Day" dealing with the theme of the day - **Hooray for Hats!** Today is our day to wear our favorite. For no matter the reason, they all have a purpose.... We wear hats to "stand

out" in a crowd.
We wear them to frame our face, no matter the size. A long, narrow face should wear a wide hat, yet a small, tiny face, should wear a French beret or even one with a propeller on top....
Hats give us confidence...to look brave or daring or just to be fashionably well dressed...
Are you the practical person who wears a hat to hide a bad hair day or to keep you warm on a cold, winter day, or to protect one from sunburn on a blistering day?
Clergy wear hats for ceremonies. Others wear them for status or identification...like the policeman or fire department, baseball players, or, maybe a sailor.
Now, don't forget the cowboy!

Yes, hats are popular, showy, and even festive. Just think...Churchill Downs that special Saturday in May!
~~~~~

To carry out the theme,



books about hats were placed on each table and the day's entertainment was provided by **Lillian Small** and **Sue Colton** who presented dramatic readings of "I Want My Hat Back" and "Harold Loves His Woolly Hat."



### March 2 Meeting

**Time:** 12:30 pm

**Place:** Jim Ward Community Center

**Address:** 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

**Program:** Membership Meet-up

Memorial Service

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March is Women's History Month



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### Bring to meeting:

**Service Hours Reports!!**

Picnic Potluck to share

Aluminum pull-tabs

Old eyeglasses

Old Cell phones



Big Winners of the day were **Sondra Goldberg** who won the Pot of Gold containing \$218.31 - and promptly donated it back to the Scholarship Fund!!  
Thanks, Sondra!

**Ellen Emery, with Jeff Hesse, who won AMBA's Fire AD 10**



Tablet: **Mary Pavlinek** and **Layeshia Reddick** who each won a \$100 gift card from Bright Star.



## President's Corner

Céad Míle Fáilte - One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

As we enter the month of March, I think back to the sights, sounds, and tastes of my December trip to Ireland. The Cliffs of Moher, The Book of Kells at Trinity College, Guinness Storehouse

Brewery, House of Waterford Crystal, kissing the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle, bagpipes & fiddles, limericks & lyrics, Irish stews & brews, and Irish coffees. One Hundred Thousand

Thank You's! to **Diane Texter** and her "Hooray for Hats" Annual Scholarship Luncheon Committee for a beautiful day at



Tropical Acres Steakhouse. Also, to

**Dustin Jacobs** and **Michael Cardona** from **BrightStar Credit Union** for their \$2000 annual donation for printing BCREA newsletters & handbooks, two \$100 Visa gift

cards for our raffle, and a \$4500 scholarship commitment for a student over the next four years. And, to **Jeff Hesse**, our AMBA partner, for a "Fire AD 10 Tablet with Alexa" and a \$50 restaurant gift card for our raffle! WOW! Our March meeting will include a Membership Meet-Up, Memorial Service, and I will give a Legislative report and Call-to-action as our Florida Legislative session begins on March 7, 2023. I will also post updates on our BCREA Facebook page

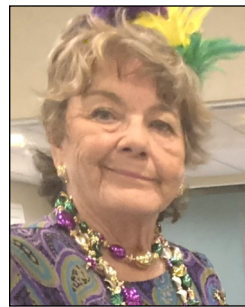
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1529026950460880> this month.

"May your laugh, your love, and your wine be plenty; thus, your happiness will be nothing less. Like the warmth of the sun and the light of the day, may the luck of the Irish shine bright on your way." *Sláinte!* **Sue**



## President-Elect's Corner

What a fun and successful Scholarship Luncheon! Hats Off to chair **Diane Texter** and all the members who worked together for this great event. The gift baskets were a big hit and profitable - raising \$1,300 for the



scholarship fund. A new record! Nine members met and put together 60 amazing prizes. It was an afternoon of 'Controlled Chaos' but was lucrative, gratifying and lots of laughs.

**Juanita Pringle-Vaughns** and **Sue Redfern** staffed the

ticket table and made sure everyone printed their names on their tickets. This made awarding prizes a breeze.

A huge thank you to **Sondra Goldberg**, who immediately after winning the Pot of Gold, announced she wanted to donate the Pot to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks for your generosity, Sondra. FYI - The Pot of Gold yielded \$218.31.

Looking ahead to our March meeting, we will be remembering the 8 BCREA members who have passed in the last year. **Darcy Drago** will lead the tributes, highlighting each person's life and career. This solemn ceremony is always touching as we honor each person's memory. Members often cite making new friends as one of the perks of BCREA attendance. At the next meeting we will be learning about other members - their hobbies, skills, and history.

"Member Meet-up" will be a fast-paced activity that promises to reveal surprises. Who knows when you may need to know someone who regularly meets to play cards or has gone on a camping trip or is a baker extraordinaire? Come to the meeting to make new friends connections and learn about others. Membership Chair **Susan Lochrie** promises it will be fun and there will be prizes!

*Anne*



## Membership

954-494-8204

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chair: Susan Lochrie



### 2023-2024 FREA & BCREA Membership Dues

Dues for this membership year start in March, 2023. It's a good idea to pay early, if possible before June 30, 2023. If you send your dues now and use the membership application in the *Newsletter*, you save BCREA the cost of mailing a reminder to you. By paying \$50 to BCREA you have only one check and one mailing. Your State FREA Dues of \$35 will be sent to FREA by our Treasurer. The remaining \$15 is for the BCREA Unit expenses. If you receive a reminder from FREA to pay dues, remember to add the local dues of \$15 to the payment in the appropriate space.

Please give me a call or email with your questions about local and state dues.

*Susan*

### BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to receive my *Newsletter* by email only

Date Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: .....\$50.00; Donation for Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to BCREA and mail to

**Susan Lochrie, BCREA Membership**

**P.O. Box 30533, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303**

## Passages

# Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club

(members 85 and over)

**Nancy Adams 03/20**

**Ethel Gerakas 03/20**

**Carol Merz 03/31**

And turning 85

**Marsha Macary 3/02**



Thinking of You....

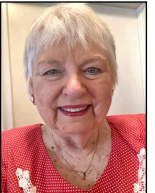
**Rosa Parra**

**Virginia Slater**

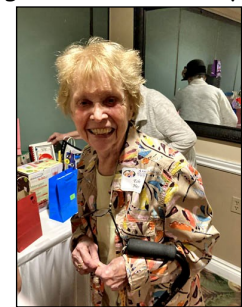
**Arline Ziller**

*Ben's*

*Bytes....*



Thanks to **Suzanne Atkin** who arranged programs on the tables and took some photos. It was great to see Past-president



**Echo Heyer** at the luncheon. Welcome back, Echo. It was also nice to

see **Barbara LeGette** who hasn't been to a meeting in a while. And the person I was most delighted to welcome to BCREA was new member **Marlene Sanders** (con't on page 6)





## Information Services

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



In a recent article from the **National Institute on Aging** the emotional benefits of exercising were discussed. Whether you are starting a walking program or joining tai chi classes, exercising goes beyond just your physical well-being. A program can help reduce feelings of depression and stress, enhance your mood, heighten feelings of well-being, increase energy level and even improve your sleep at night. All of this helps to keep one independent as you age. It is suggested that as you begin an exercise routine, there are certain things that you should keep in mind as you progress. Always begin with low intensity exercises. Don't leave out both warm up and cool down activities, and importantly, even if you don't feel thirsty, you should drink water before, during and after exercise. Always wear appropriate

clothing and shoes and no matter where you are (inside or outside) you should pay attention to your surroundings. If you have any concerns or health conditions it would be advised to discuss your exercise plan with your doctor. This article which can be accessed through [www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov) also provides downloadable worksheets to help get you started with exercise, set up goals, track duration and offers safety tips. You may also visit the NIA YouTube channel. Many city community centers, including Jim Ward (<https://www.plantation.org>) have exercise programs which can help begin our quest for obtaining personal wellness. Congratulations to all those who have an already established routine! Stay sharp, stay safe, stay fit and send positive thoughts to others. *Sallie*

## Volunteer Services / Directories

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



At our March meeting we will collect pet supplies for our furry friends at the **Florida Humane Society**, a "no-kill" shelter in Broward County. Any type of pet supplies are welcome but their most pressing needs are:

- ♦ White copy paper
- ♦ Bottled water
- ♦ Dawn dish soap
- ♦ Any kind of laundry soap
- ♦ Cat litter &
- ♦ Dry cat food.

*Darcy*

## Literacy

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



It's March - we can sit outside, enjoy the sunshine and read a book or a favorite magazine. And while you are reading a book, let me stray from my usual plea. I want to encourage everyone to register for a vote-by-mail ballot. If you have previously registered, your name is no longer on the list to receive a mail-in ballot. The new law requires you to ask

for that ballot once again. It's easy to do. Either call the Broward Supervisor of elections office (954) 357-8683 or email <https://www.browardvotes.gov/Voter-Information/Vote-By-Mail-Voting>. Of course, you can still choose to vote on election day at your polling location. But this gives you the option to vote in person or by mail through 2024!

## Fund Raising

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



What a great scholarship luncheon! We raised \$1300 That's fantastic. Now for our next fundraiser: It's ZOOM BINGO on April 20 at 1:00. The cards are \$10 for 5 games. There will be prizes for each game. I will collect money at the March and April meetings.

Also you can send a check and a self-addressed/stamped envelope to:  
**Marelise LeClerc**  
615 N 31 Road  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
Hope to see you at ZOOM BINGO. You'll have a great time and maybe win some prizes. *Barbara*



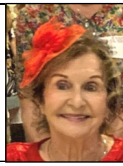
We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service  
every time



Follow us on Social Media  
 @brightstarcu

## From the Treasurer

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



Thanks to **Bright Star** for their \$2000 donation. This money is used to pay for our monthly newsletter and our annual directory. We so appreciate their generosity. Our annual luncheon's net profit was approximately \$1,700! WOW! Since our first year scholarship recipients receive \$1,500, we made MORE than enough to give a scholarship to a high

school senior. Kudos to all that worked so hard on the luncheon. It's amazing the results- but as amazing is the work that goes into making the luncheon a success.

Thanks to the following members, many of whom again added extra money to their luncheon ticket and others who give of their unselfish natures:

*Marelise*

### Scholarship Donations

#### Undesignated

|                 |              |                  |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Carol Call      | Darcy Drago  | Jan Heinrich     |
| Echo Heyer      | Bev Hoppe    | Rosemary McGarry |
| Betty Ouellette | Carol Roland |                  |
| Joni Schachere  |              |                  |

## Cultural Affairs

Chair: Carol Roland  
954-472-2389 carolrbeads@aol.com



**Fun 'n Frolic Day:**  
**Thursday March 16 - 1-3 PM**  
**At Heritage Park Plantation from**

Come join your friends for a day in the park. Activities will include an afternoon of outdoor games and fellowship at Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane, Plantation. Try your hand at badminton, ring toss, horse shoes, corn hole skills, putt putt golf and other exciting activities because "prizes" will be awarded. To make this year extra special, we are adding a new twist and request that you bring a pot luck item. The committee members will provide bottled water, paper products, and cutlery.

There is no charge, but to ensure we have a pavilion large enough for our group, reservations are required. Deadline is March 2. Call me at 954 472-2389.

*Carol*

## 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)

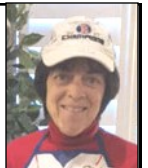
**Volunteer hours working with youth** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;  
This also includes literacy hours)

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**

## Social Committee

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

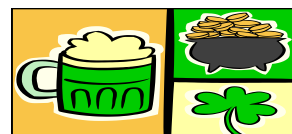


Even though it is still February, March will soon be upon us bringing leprechauns and the arrival of Spring. In January, we brought back our Pot Luck luncheon with a slight twist. Since the kitchen is much smaller at Jim Ward and not as conducive to keeping food warm, picnic type foods such as salads, fried chicken, appetizers, finger sandwiches and of course, dessert, were the kinds of food we all enjoyed. The selection of food in January was fantastic and I'm sure it will be just as

wonderful in March. So, start thinking about the delicious creation you will prepare to share with your fellow BCREA members. If you are not comfortable eating from the luncheon table, you are welcome to continue to bring your own lunch. See you on the 2nd.

*May you have warm words  
on a cold evening, a full  
moon on a dark night and  
the road downhill all the  
way to your door.*  
(An Irish blessing)

*Marianne*





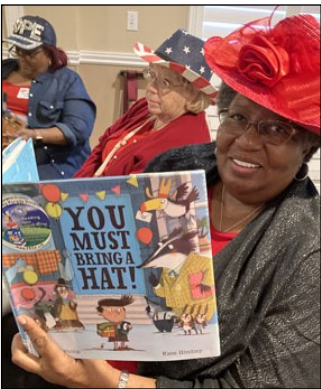
# BCREA NEWSLETTER

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- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

with whom I worked 35 years ago at Western HS. She was expecting her son **Ryan** when I last saw her - Ryan is now 35!! Some of you may know her as the head of Guidance at KC Wright from which she retired. There were FREA stickers on each table which were to be added to the books and pens to write a note to the child who receives it. Here **Dorothy Moore** and **Gloria Jackson** are doing



that!  
You probably noticed the centerpieces with old-fashioned

hats and the tell-tale boas around their necks. Of course - they were created by Luncheon Chair **Diane Texter**. Good job, Diane! She



also had lots of extra hats in case someone



showed up without one!  
It was another fabulous party!

And that's the last byte for March

*Ber*

