

Hooray for Hollywood - A Roaring Success



Pictured above are some of the winners of the 77 baskets in the Scholarship raffle. Right in the front center is **Darlene Pillsbury** who's holding the Barbie doll she won. To her right is **Wilma Taylor** whose name was called many times - she



won several baskets! Big Winners of the day were **Shirley Swartz**, with **Jeff Hesse**, who won AMBA's

new Alexa device. **Leila Lumpkins** and **Jeri Habenicht** each won a \$100 gift card from **Bright Star**.



Several Came in Character

Besides President Anne, Several people dressed as a favorite movie character. There was the well-known wizard Harry Potter -



"Breakfast at Tiffany's" Holly Golightly -

March 7 Meeting

Time: 12:00 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: : Avoiding Scams AARP Memorial Service

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March is Women's History Month

Bring to meeting:

Service Hours Reports!!

Picnic Potluck to share

Aluminum pull-tabs

Old eyeglasses

Old Cell phones



And the biggest winner of the day was **LuAnn Comes** who won the Pot of Gold containing

\$309.06. In case you didn't

recognize "Charlie Chaplin," it's our president - **Anne French!**



(con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

The Annual Scholarship Luncheon was a roaring success. **Diane Texter**, AKA Barbie, coordinated an event extraordinaire! There was glamour, glitz, humor, and fun! Hooray for Hollywood featured Holly Golightly, Harry Potter, Marilyn Monroe, Charlie Chaplin, the Beverly Hillbillies, and, of course, Barbie.

Attendees had fun dressing up, walking the red carpet, and posing for pictures. Our own paparazzo **Joel Lefkowitz** took more than 150 pictures. Joel added a bit of sophistication himself by wearing a tuxedo!

Want to see the photos? Watch your email for a message from **Sandy Lefkowitz** (slef12343@gmail.com). She will be sending a link and instructions to download the snapshots. Please share the link with guests who joined you at the luncheon.

We raised an amazing \$2,000 - a record! The "Controlled Chaos Crew" of 9 put together 77 amazing baskets. This year's crew included **Sue Colton**, **Diane Texter**, **Carol Roland**, **Sandy Lefkowitz**, **LuAnn Comes**, **Barbara Lewis**, **Shirley Swartz**, and **Marsy Smith**. **Juanita Pringle** and **Sue Redfern** sold tickets and reminded everyone to print their names on the tickets. Thanks to **Val Proffer**, who cut the tickets into strips to make the sales go faster.

Our partners stepped up to add to the luncheon's success. **AMBA** donated an Echo Show, the latest Alexa device and **Shirley Swartz** was the lucky winner.

Bright Star Credit Union delivered their annual \$2,000 check to underwrite printing costs as well as delivering two \$100 visa gift cards, won by **Leila Lumpkins** and **Jeri Habenicht**.

The Pot of Gold truly represents the Hearts of Gold of our members attending monthly meetings. This year, members dug deep in their pockets to find some loose coins. The total amount collected was a record \$309.06 **LuAnn Comes** won the Pot of Gold this and donated the money back to BCREA for scholarships and the Literacy Committee. Thank you, LuAnn.

At our March 7 meeting, we will be remembering the nine BCREA members who have passed in the last year. We are also going to learn about the latest frauds and scams circulating. An AARP speaker will be making this timely presentation.

Anne



Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



Our FREA Legislative Team of 20 representing all state units traveled to the Capitol in Tallahassee to meet with legislators January 22-25, 2024. My District 10 consort, including **Roger Cuevas**, **Joe Mathos**, **George Ellis**, and myself, targeted our Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Senators to gain their support for our legislative priorities. Team members from Districts 1-9 also met with their legislators. The entire group met with **Lamar Taylor**, Executive Director of the State Business Administration (SBA), who manages and invests our FRS trust funds, and reported that our Florida Retirement System is strong. At dinner, we also joined AARP Florida leadership to discuss common objectives and Social Security and Medicare national issues. **CURRENT ALERT! HB151 and SB 242 are the Cost of Living (COLA) Reinstatement Bills** in the House and the Senate. Support from both sides of the aisle is positive and co-sponsored. The latest committee version of HB 151 passed unanimously on its first reading. **ACTION:** Please get in touch with your senator and representative and thank them for their support of these bills. Tell them you are their constituent, and you are asking for their vote on these bills to become law. The 2024 Session ends on March 8.

Question: Do you know your State Senator and State Representative and how to contact them? Go to FREA.org and click the eagle to find the information on the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. You can also click Tracking to receive up-to-date information on bills there.

WE CAN DO THIS!!

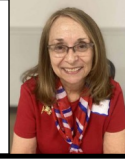
Sue

The Gatsby Girls!



Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes
954-475-1510 lacomes987@aol.com



FREA is a state-wide organization representing our benefits and interests in the Florida Retirement System. You can check out all the benefits of membership at www.frea.org. BCREA (browardrea.org) is a part of FREA and also supports our local retirees and community. Membership in FREA and BCREA has a multitude of benefits. Collection of dues for membership for 2024-2025 has begun. The current cost of dues is \$50 which covers \$35 for FREA and \$15 for BCREA. If you send your check to BCREA, we forward the FREA dues and retain the local BCREA dues. One check and done! You can pay at any of the remaining meetings or by sending your and check to the address listed. As of July 1, FREA is raising their dues by \$10, so dues will then be \$60! FREA will get \$45 and BCREA dues will remain at \$15. **If you plan to avoid the dues increase, please send your check to BCREA and turn it in or have it in the mail by June 1!**

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

LuAnn Comes, BCREA Membership

107 NW 107 Terrace, Plantation, FL 33324

Passages

Happy Birthday to our
Happy Birthday

- Birthday Club*
(members 85 and over)
- Marsha Macary 3/02
 - Nancy Adams 03/20
 - Ethel Gerakas 03/20
 - Carol Merz 03/31
- And turning 85 -
- Sally Creswell 3/05



Thinking of You...

- Richard Conkel
- Louise Costello
- Susan Lochrie
- Arline Ziller



- In Memoriam*
- Mozelle Lennon 1/11/24
 - Eleanor Meyer 1/27/24

(con't from Page 1)

"Some Like It Hot's"
Marilyn Monroe.

Do you recognize any of the impersonators?



Information Services

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



Volunteer Services / Directories

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



March is known as the month of change: changes in temperature, increase in daylight hours, adapting to daylight saving time, welcoming spring, planting root crops and many begin the preparation for the "Wearing of the Green" in mid month.

Readers Digest (February 2024 issue), had an article entitled "The Power of 26 Letters." It is the story of Andrew, an Autistic person who used a letter board to tell others of his needs. One day while in a shoe store, one of the employees saw the young man "talking" to his mother using the letters on the alphabet board. The clerk saw the exchange between mom and son and questioned the use of the board. The employee stated that he had a relative who was unable to speak and because of this the family "didn't really know him."

The mother stated that when her son began using the device, it changed their lives. The store clerk and mom exchanged information and the web site for the spelling-to communicate or-

ganization that had helped Andrew. The employee asked if this might help his brother-in-law Jason. Andrew began pointing to letters on his board and writes the message, "Tell Jason he will change everyone's opinion of him in 26 letters."

This is an example of how one small step or chance meeting or kind action can change a person's life in a second. March 3 is Caregivers Appreciation Day. In a sense, just as we ourselves are caregivers to many, we all have our own personal caregiver to some degree and are grateful for them. Just as Andrew had a positive impact on Jason's life, our own actions may be able to change another's unsatisfactory experience into a positive one.

There is truth in the Irish toast "A good word never broke a tooth." Kindness and good deeds will always be acknowledged and appreciated.

Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others

Sallie

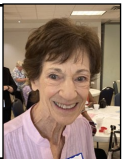
Make a resolution to volunteer & become more active in your community this year. Serve meals or organize clothing donations for people in need. Run errands for people with limited mobility or no access to transportation. Join a committee or help out with an activity at your place of worship. Volunteer at a school, library, museum, hospital or animal shelter. Help with garden-

ing at a community garden or park or at a beach cleanup. Sing in a community choral group or play in a local band or orchestra. Serve on your HOA board. Teach a favorite pastime or skill to a new generation. All of the above qualify as community service along with preparation & travel time.

>> Please remember to report your hours to BCREA each month. *Darcy*

Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-473-9480 slef123@bellsouth.net



We are all fortunate to be educated, to be successful and to enjoy retirement! Now it's time to think about "Giving back." It's easy! Just donate a new or gently used children's book. To quote Readingrockets.org: "There is a well-established correlation between reading, prior knowledge and comprehension: students who have it, get it. Students who don't, don't."

Children can't read books if they don't have them. Ensuring that books are available to any child is a necessary step in closing the reading achievement gap. And we can make a difference. Please bring a book to the March meeting. There will be a book box to drop in your book. Let's fill the box.

The more books we give, the more children can read. The more children read, the more they succeed. March is the last month this year that we will be collecting children's books. Thanks for all the books you have already donated. It's been amazing.

Sandy



antee **BRIGHT** Service every time



TOP WORK PLACES

SunSentinel MEDIA GROUP



Michael Cardona and Greg Cassamajor joined the fun and were awarded Oscars.

From the Treasurer

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



Thanks to all for making our annual luncheon an outstanding success. We could not have done it without volunteers who were selling tickets, organizing the gift tables and distributing gifts won. After paying all the bills, the luncheon brought in \$450 profit that we will use for scholarships This does not include donations we received designated for scholarships. *Carol*

Scholarship Donations
Undesignated

Joan Alderman	Alyce Aspler	Carol Call
Jeff Hesse	Perry & Charlotte Klimas	
Madeline Martin	Cindy O'Linn	
Judith Pine	Joni Schachere	
Diane Texter		

Fund Raising

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



What a Hi everyone! On February 1st, we had a great Scholarship Luncheon, "Hurrah for Hollywood". All who attended had a fantastic time! Kudos to Diane! Our SUPER ZOOM BINGO is quickly approaching. On April 25th at 1:00 PM we will be playing ZOOM BINGO! The cost is \$10.00 for 5 cards. I will be collecting the money at the March and April meetings. You can also send a check and stamped self addressed envelope to:
CAROL ROLAND
9721 SW 14 Place
Davie, FL 33324

She will send you your cards. Please send her your check by April 15th. Prizes will be awarded to winners of each game. So come out one and all! Enjoy the games and help us raise money for children's books for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Looking forward to seeing you on ZOOM April 25th. If you have any questions call me.

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)

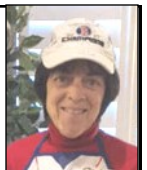
Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger; This also includes literacy hours)

Bring this to our next meeting, e-mail it to me at dardra@att.net 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



Welcome to March. Women's History Month finds us welcoming Daylight Savings Time and celebrating Easter and St. Patrick's Day so get your Kelly green ready for our meeting on March 7. After a month off, it's time to get those recipes out to find the delicious food you will bring to the Picnic Pot Luck lunch. If you have any reusable containers, the Social Committee would appreciate you bringing them to the meeting. Many, many were used at our January meeting and our supply is running low. Please don't forget that we are recycling bottles and cans. The recycling bin

hasn't been very full at our last couple of meetings. Along with the special days previously mentioned. March brings us Peanut Butter Lover's Day and Chip & Dip Day. A little food for thought as you plan your luncheon item. *May the dreams you hold dearest, be those which come true. And the kindness you spread, keep returning to you. - An Irish blessing*

Marianne



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

Telephone Committee

Chair: **Suzanne Atkin**
 954-849-2221 suziqteacher@gmail.com



It was BCREA's Telephone Committee has been working hard to establish a new focus of OUTREACH to our members. We have started to ask members who no longer drive if they would like to attend our monthly meetings if they had a ride. So far we have two members looking for rides: **Erma Bell** lives in Dania and **Josephine Bryant** lives in Pompano Beach. **Doris Emmett** also lives in Pompano and needs transportation; **Bobbie Lou David** lives in Covenant Living, doesn't drive and cannot attend the meetings. Who could assist in making this happen for these members? We also know that **Barbara Bohuny** can

drive, but needs assistance getting her wheelchair into & out of her car so she could come to the meetings. Any ideas of how we could make this a reality for her? Do you know of others who would like this service? Email me if you can assist in any way. Other info learned by callers: **Richard Conkel** is very ill and is often in and out of the hospital. His wife is his care giver. **Louise Costello** is too ill to make it to the meetings. **Sally Creswell** has hearing difficulties and does not make to the meetings.

Suzanne

FREF

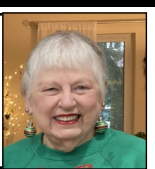
Chair: **Shirley Swartz**
 954-536-3401 Shirley.swartz@gmail.com



I want to thank our members who have purchased an FREF Extravaganza ticket for the 2024 drawing. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember it is two chances to win

Bev's Bytes....

954-587-9275 HapiHopi@aol.com



Mozella Lennon was a big winner in December's Scholarship Fundraiser, smiling and happy as she won both \$10.00 and a pink Christmas tree in the Scholarship Drawing. I was shocked to discover she had passed away in January! RIP, Mozella.

Good job, **Diane**

Texter, aka **Barbie!**

"Hooray for Hollywood" was another fabulous party! So much fun, so many prizes and a new high total in the Pot of Gold! And several people even won Oscars! And that's the last byte for March! *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,

when you purchase one ticket. I was a lucky winner one year!!! These tickets will be on sale until April 20th. Good news! We've now received our first application for our FREF scholarship

Shirley