

BCREA Welcomes Author/Doctor Feiss

Memorial Service Remembers 12

Each year BCREA takes time to remember the members who have passed away in the previous year. This year 12 members, including Past-President **Linda Horton** were honored at the March meeting. They were:

Diana Carter
Donald Conkel
Mary Ellen Fowler
Marjorie Gregg
Jacqueline Hall
Luther Henderson
Linda Horton
Lizzie Johnson
Rosemary McGarry
Juli Cole Patten
Mary Perfect
Martha Pipes

Darcy Drago read the name of each person and told a few things about them followed by a moment of silence.



Suzanne Atkin is Volunteer of the Year

By Darcy Drago

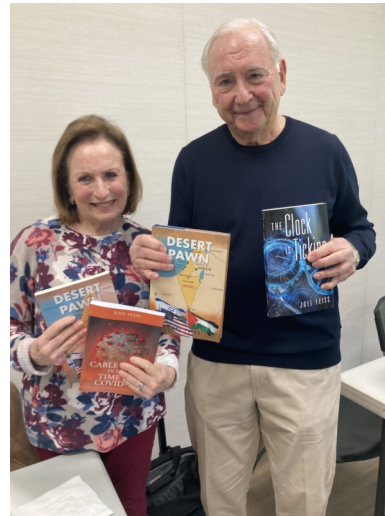
Suzanne Atkin is BCREA's Volunteer of the Year. By adding telephone scripts Suzanne has made the committee's monthly calls a vital link, reaching out to our members, reminding them of



meetings and activities. In turn, these calls provide important

information about some of our members to the executive board.

Suzanne has a love of animals. In addition to her involvement with BCREA she volunteers with Broward Buddies Animal Care and the Big Dog Rescue Ranch. According to the event coordinator at Faith Church Suzanne is a "standout volunteer" there. She serves on both hospitality and con't on page 3



Dr. Joel Feiss and his wife **Pearl** were speakers at the March meeting. Dr. Feiss described himself as the worse student possible who took basic math in his senior year of high school. But he got himself together and attended the University of Florida majoring in science after a stint in the military. He then got his MD at the University of Miami and

worked at Plantation General. He was also interested in marketing and writing. He self published his first book, **Retribution for Acts of Terrorism** in 2009. Since then he's published 8 more. Pearl is his editor without whom he could not write books. He had to go back to work so she stayed and sold books - donating the proceeds to BCREA.

April 3 Meeting

Time: 12 noon

Place: Jim Ward (Hopefully)
Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave,
Plantation

Program: : **Dr. Howard Hepburn, Superintendent**
"Believe - Empower - Achieve - One Broward"



Easter 4/20

Passover:



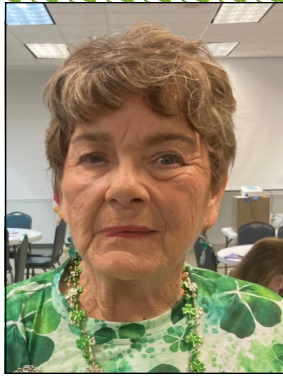
4/12 - 4/20

Bring to meeting:

Volunteer Hours
Picnic Potluck to share
Aluminum pull-tabs
Old eyeglasses
& Cell phones
A New Member

President's Corner

BCREA meetings were challenging this year. The October session was cancelled because of a hurricane threat. In January, not only was our date changed, but we also had to get together at Volunteer Park due to renovations. And in March we had a new spot due to continuing upgrades at the Jim Ward Community Center. But, fingers crossed, we should be back at the Jim Ward Center for April and May. Hopefully, it will look all polished and spruced up.



As I was walking my dog this morning, I reflected on the beautiful spring weather and remembered the cold of Maine winters. I pinched myself about how lucky I am to be in Florida. And how fortunate I am to be a part of an outstanding, positive, and supportive group of educators.

But we need leaders to step up. I feel one of the biggest threats to BCREA is persuading members to take on leadership positions. There are many reasons to say, 'Not me,' but if not you, then who?

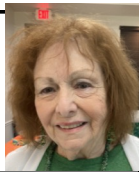
You will be glad if you say yes. I certainly will be!

Anne

Fund Raising

Chair: Barbara Lewis

954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



It was great seeing all of you at the March meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at the April meeting. Our SUPER ZOOM BINGO is **Thursday, April 17 at 1:00 on ZOOM**. The money from Bingo goes to buy new books for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Even if you don't play Bingo buy a card and give it to someone else. Bingo cards

are \$10.00 for 5 games. I will have cards at the April meeting. Also, you can send me your money and include your address to:

**Barbara Lewis
10210 NW 24 St
Sunrise, FL 33322**

We always have a lot of fun. The more people that play the more fun we have.

Thanks,

Barbara

From the President Elect

Dr. Joel Feiss was very interesting talking about his books. Thank you



Sandy Lefkowitz for getting Dr. Feiss to come to our meeting. We're looking forward to welcoming

**Dr. Howard Hepburn,
Superintendent**

**"Believe - Empower - Achieve
- One Broward"**
to our April Meeting.



JoAnn

Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



The 2025 Florida Legislative Session was called to order on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The Florida Retired Educators Association Legislative Team will be in Tallahassee March 24-27. This year, our main priority is to continue the 'Reinstate COLA' push. We will represent you and all FRS retirees with the following priorities: 1. Restore, enhance, and protect retiree Earned Benefits from the Florida Retirement System. 2. Promote accountability in Florida Public Schools' equitable funding and uniform standards for all educational facilities and organizations that receive state tax dollars. 3. Advocate health and welfare issues for seniors that will ensure retirement with dignity (empowering people to choose how they live as they age), support for Social Security and Medicare Benefits, Health Insurance, Cost Of Living Adjustment, and Affordable and Accessible Housing. Call to Action! Write an email to your legislators describing the difference COLA reinstatement would make in your life. Send to info@frea.org. The office will add your Senate and House Representatives' names to the salutation. I will hand-carry your copies to their Tallahassee offices. Please include your name and correct address. Find your legislators by accessing <https://www.flsenate.gov/senators> and <https://www.flhouse.gov/representatives>

Sue



Community Service/Handbooks

Chair: Darcia Drago
954-977-7247 954-552-3479
dardra@att.net



Our last group project of the year will be at our April meeting when we 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 they

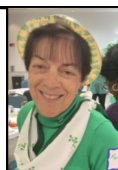


Darcy

are also in need of White copy paper, bottled water, Dawn dish soap, any brand of laundry soap, cat litter & dry cat food.

Social Committee

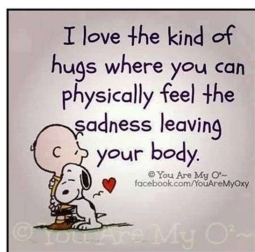
Chair: Marianne Scott
954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



There are many special days in April. We get to celebrate Passover, Easter, Pretzel Day, Deep Dish Pizza Day and Earth Day. Since we have been displaced from Jim Ward for a few months, the Social Committee recycling basket took a little time off. It will return in April when hopefully, we are back at our regular meeting place. Let's try to do our part to help planet Earth by

recycling only the cans and bottles from our luncheon. Also, please, please, PLEASE, DO NOT bring any reusable containers to our remaining two meetings. While your assistance in supplying containers is appreciated, I am running out of room to store the many, MANY containers that I have. Thank your for your cooperation.

Marianne



Con't from page 1 - Suzanne Adkin

teams and is able to see a need and to fill it. She pulls off any task with excellence and grace.

Suzanne has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many. She says that in doing so she has grown personally and professionally.

Congratulations, Suzanne!

Information Services

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



An article entitled "Warning! I Was Scammed" in our BCREA March Newsletter, written by Bev Hoppe, was read by Anne Fagan, FREA Executive Director. Anne in turn, in her newsletter, addressed what we should do to protect ourselves from the scammers by not answering calls from unknown numbers, watching emails with misspelling, clicking on links, etc. Anne suggested a website to further help keep us safe in the cyber world, <https://cyberguy.com>. "Kurt the Cyber Guy" has been around for years giving us tips and tricks for our phones, computers and tablets. His website and free newsletter gives many suggestions to avoid cyber attacks.

Since 1992, April has been observed as **National Stress Awareness Month** and the first Wednesday in April is **National Walking Day**. Walking has been ranked as the most popular form of exercise. Research has shown that walking at a lively pace, at least 150 minutes a week, can help you think, feel and sleep better, improve memory and blood pressure and boost bone strength. When

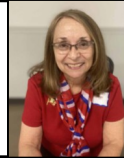
you walk your body releases hormones, one of which is dopamine which decreases stress according to an article from WebMD. <https://www.webmd.com/better-health/a-to-z/guides/healthbenefits>. So with the longer daylight hours and Spring in the air, you can increase your walking time and decrease your stress! There are some legitimate apps that will pay you to walk and also apps that will donate money to social causes for your steps walked or jogged (Impact-Steps Fitness Charity). Several health insurance companies, particularly those offering Medicare Advantage plans, provide free or heavily discounted activity trackers to their senior members as part of wellness programs. UnitedHealthcare's "Motion" app and Humana's "Go365" program are known for offering free Fitbits to eligible members. Don't forget your SmartPhone has the ability to count your steps and set daily goals if you carry it in your pocket. Check with your neighbor and see if they want to go for a walk today. Stay safe, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others. Happy trails!

Sallie



Membership

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



2025 - 2026 BCREA Membership Dues

Collection of membership dues for 2025-2026 has begun. Thank you to all members who have already sent in their dues! The current cost of dues is \$60 which covers \$45 for FREA and \$15 for BCREA. Dues cover July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 which is the same as the school's fiscal year. Membership provides many benefits. View the benefits at www.frea.org. Additionally, our newsletters show you what is happening in our local chapter. When you send your check to BCREA, we forward the FREA dues and retain the local BCREA dues. If you are coming to a meeting, you can pay there. If not, please send your application (shown below) and check to the address listed.

LuAnn

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: _____

Dues: \$60.00 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
Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

Mary Bedard 4/02

Lillian Johnston 4/03

Eleanor Majerus 4/23

Ronald Mayhew 4/30

And turning 85 on 4/16.....

Garnett Ferguson



Thinking of You....

Louise Costello

Echo Heyer

Arline Ziller



In Memoriam

Juli Cole Patten 2/09/25



We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service
every time



SunSentinel
MEDIA GROUP

Literacy

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



I posed the question, "Why do kids need books?" The answers to my question were overwhelming. The list went on and on:

Books demand that kids think.

Books let kids try on the world before they have to go out into it.

Books answer questions.
Books create questions.

Books provide the opportu-

nity to share cultural experiences.

Books are great companions and comfort us.

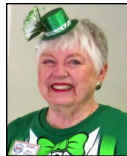
BOOKS INSPIRE US TO DREAM.

BOOKS GIVE US THE TOOLS TO ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS.

Thank you for the books you have donated this year.

Sandy

Winners in the March **Scholarship Fundraiser** were Below, L-R: **Barbara Lewis**, \$20; **Carol Roland**, \$10 twice; ; **Joni Schachere**, \$10; At the right, **Robin Newman**, **LuAnn Comes**,



Bev's Bytes...



Pinky Graham and **Cindy O'Linn** won the

flowers - donated, as always, by **Carol Roland**. **Val Proffer** and **Suzanne Atkin** won \$2.00 bills and **Carole D'Ausilio** won a mug. **Jean Anderson** was the winner of the Community Services drawing.

Just before Valentine's Day, 200 roses were delivered to **Sue Colton**! This was part of "Cupid Crew." For the 12th year, Wish of a Lifetime of **AARP** delivered cards and roses to hundreds of thousands of older adults on February 14 through its Cupid Crew network of volunteers. The annual tradition aims to help tackle the nation's loneliness epidemic, which threatens the health



From the Treasurer

Carol Roland
954-472-2389 Carolrbeads@aol.com



Thanks to everyone who donated to the BCREA Scholarship Fund. This month most donations were cash so I can only recognize one donor: **Sally Macak**. But those of you who gave cash whether for a straight donation or bingo tickets, know that all your donations are greatly appreciated. This month we collected over \$400.00 that will go to scholarships.
Carol



and well-being of millions of people in the U.S. On February 13, Sue and her Crew of several BCREA volunteers met at the Riverland Library to pick up roses and cards to deliver to BCREA

members and others using lists compiled by **LuAnn Comes**. They can tell you some lovely stories about their deliveries!

! Happy Easter!
Happy Passover! Happy Spring!

And that's



the last byte for April!

Bev



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

FREF

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



The FREF Committee wants to reach out to all BCREA members near and far who have not yet purchased their FREF EXTRAVAGANZA Raffle ticket.

Please consider using the mail in form with your check so you can be a part of the drawing with two chances to win.

Please hurry we have an April 30th deadline when all returns are due into the state office. A HUGE Thank YOU to all who have already supported this effort.

Shirley

Slate for 2025-2026 Announced

President, **JoAnn Kitchen Simmons**
President-Elect, **Open;**
Secretary, **Karen Avery**
Treasurer **Gwen Lampkin**

Voting will take place at the April meeting.

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:

**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 _____

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 _____, 201____

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 Dagoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063**