

January, 2025

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 322

## Plantation Park Chorus Earns Standing Ovation



Led by their director Nicole Greggs, the Plantation Park School Chorus entertained BCREA at the December meeting with a variety of holiday songs and earned a standing ovation. Opening with *Ugly Sweater* and closing with *Give Us Peace*, their repertoire included *Marshmallow World*,

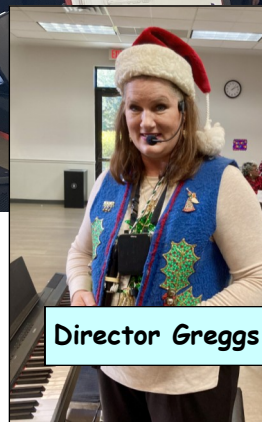


Soloist Abigail

*Frosty the Snowman, Silver Bells, Jingle Bell Rock, Here Comes Chanukah, Let's Have a Party, Happy Chanukah and Jump, Jump, Jump. For Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer they used signs and added extra comments ending with "You'll go down in history (Like El-*

*vis!)*, holding up a picture of El-

If you missed their show or just want to see more of them, they will present their



Director Greggs

holiday concert on December 16 at 6:30 at South Plantation HS



### From Luncheon Chair Diane Texter

#### Save the Date

Annual Scholarship Luncheon  
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 11:30 am  
Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road  
Tickets are \$50 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  
"A Tropical Day at Tropical Acres."

### January 9 Meeting

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: Jim Ward Community Center  
301 NW 46 Avenue  
Plantation

Program: Sue Colton Cupid Crew -  
decorating cards



#### Bring to meeting:

Potluck Picnic Food  
Service Hours Report  
New-ish items for  
Luncheon Prize Baskets  
Loose Change for Pot of Gold  
Aluminum pull-tabs  
Old cell phones & eyeglasses



## President's Corner

BCREA kicked off this festive season with the children from the Plantation Park Elementary Chorus. I really enjoyed watching the personalities of the students emerge as they performed. For example, the little boy whose hat was too big, the girl who wasn't sure which way to turn, and the joy when the group got a standing ovation. Definitely a treat.

As the calendar page turns to 2025, I am looking forward to upcoming BCREA activities.

Be sure to note that our BCREA meeting will be on the second Thursday, January 9th. The Jim Ward Center is doing some extra maintenance, so our meeting has been rescheduled.

BCREA Book Club will be restarted in 2025. If you want to join other members for interesting discussions and good food, let me know, and I will add you to the list. More details to follow.

February 6 will be our Annual Scholarship Luncheon - "Tropical Days at Tropical Acres."

This is the biggest fundraiser for local scholarships with our gift basket bazaar.

Please do not just clean out your closets and donate things you no longer want. Others probably won't want them either! Christmas or Hanukkah gifts you don't want would be appreciated.

Are we picky? YES! Donate only things others would like to win!. Remember, gift cards are EXTREMELY popular! Bring your items for the gift baskets to the January 9 meeting.

We really need baskets or similar containers!

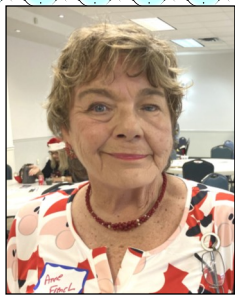
If necessary, donated items and baskets can be dropped off at my house.

FYI: Luncheon tickets will be sold at the January meeting, or you can order tickets using the form in this Newsletter.

Mark your calendar for 1 PM on Sunday, February 2. 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 if you can help and to get directions

**954-579-1719      [annefrench10@gmail.com](mailto:annefrench10@gmail.com)**

This is the time of year when we often make resolutions. As I know myself and my lack of follow-through, the only resolution I am making this year is to remember to write 2025 on my checks!



## From the President-Elect

Truly our hearts were joyful as we celebrated the choral performance of the **Plantation Park Elementary School Chorus** at our December 5, 2024 meeting. **Ms. Nicole Gregg's** choral performance definitely inspired us for the forthcoming holiday season. I was even able to remember back to my 5th grade holiday pageant.

We will now prepare for our January 9, 2025 (please note the date), where we will be doing something different. We will work on our Valentines' tribute with the state organization FREA, in preparing special mementos for our members who may be sick or shut-in. I'm ecstatic to showcase my artistic skills. So please make certain that you bring your own art style to our January meeting.

Also, the **Morris Memorial Scholarship** for current Broward School employees will be available for application on our website, beginning January 1, 2025. Please enlighten friends and colleagues about this opportunity. Special thanks to **Joyce Stokes** (November) and **Grace Tyson** for providing our Thought for Today. Your words are thoughtful and appreciated.

See you in January. Sincerely, **Dr. JAKS**



## District 10 Director /Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

**954-695-5065**

**[scolton@bellsouth.net](mailto:scolton@bellsouth.net)**



Now that you are all excited about BCREA's involvement in AARP's Cupid Crew 2025, let's get ready for **Step 1**, which will happen at our January 9th BCREA meeting. We will personalize and decorate the Valentine's Day cards AARP sends us this month. Please bring markers, stickers, and craft décor with you (no glitter!) so we can add hearts and messages along with our logo and greetings.

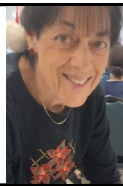
**STEP 2** will occur on February 13th at the **Riverland Branch Library**, 2710 W Davie Blvd., where BCREA will have a room set up from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. On that day, I will bring the 300 live roses delivered from AARP, and you may JOIN US there to prepare and deliver them to members of our retirement community. WHO might that be? Of course, our members who can't attend meetings, as well as shut-ins from your church or other local community groups where you belong. YOU will leave there with the roses and cards and go forth to spread joy and love to those human hearts who need it the most!

*Sue*

## Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott

954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



There was a wonderful festive atmosphere at the December meeting. Many BCREA members came dressed in their finest holiday attire, the buffet table had lots of delicious holiday food and the icing on the cake was the holiday performance by the **Plantation Park Elementary Chorus**. At the present time, the Social Committee has more than enough Take Home containers. So, **PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT bring any more containers** to our fu-

ture meetings. If the committee starts running low, we will let you know. Also, someone left a large, clear plastic bowl at the December meeting. It contained grapes for the luncheon. The bowl will be on the buffet table at the January meeting waiting to be claimed. I wish everyone a very happy holiday season. I'll see you all on January 9th for our first meeting of the new year.

Marianne



Chorus boys have trouble with their cummerbunds!



Suzanne Atkin

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## Information Services

Chair: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



"THAT TIME" is upon us once again... making New Year Resolutions! Interestingly this practice goes back to the ancient Babylonians who would promise to return borrowed objects and pay-off debts.

According to a **Forbes Health Survey**, five of the top 10 resolutions have something to do with either physical or mental health. **Dr. Jaffer**, from Senior Medical Associates, offers his "**Pearls of Longevity**" to help enhance our good health and happiness. He begins by saying that if we have a positive attitude, "Nobody can make you unhappy without your permission." According to Dr. Jaf-

fer, excessive calorie intake (and overeating) and a sedentary lifestyle are the main culprits of weight gain and ill health. He suggests that daily exercise, managing weight and reducing stress (perhaps through meditation and prayer) and maintaining at least eight hours of sleep daily are keys to early intervention and disease prevention. He continues advising us to be compassionate and charitable when dealing with everyone.

Lastly, Dr. Jaffer states "Make every day the best day of your life. Make a difference daily. Perform at least one good deed a day." All sound like great New

Year Resolutions.

Speaking of health issues, did you know that you can drop off old, expired, or unused medications in the drug disposal kiosks at select Publix Pharmacies. Never flush medications down the toilet or sink. They will contaminate the drinking water supply. According to the Center for Allergy and Asthma, if you are starting to have a runny nose, itchy throat, watery eyes, etc, your holiday decorations being pulled from the attic or garage may be the culprit. "Christmas Tree Syndrome" is a real thing, brought on by real or fake Christmas Trees.

As we enter 2025, stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie

## Passages



Happy Birthday to our Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

Beverly Merrill 1/03

Nina Panuzzo 1/06

Emma Black 1/08

Maxine Boggy 1/13



Thinking of You

Darcy Drago

Bertilda Henderson

Cindy O'Linn

Julia Penley

Arline Ziller



In Memoriam

Luther Henderson

5/2024



Jean Anderson & Diane Texter





## FREF

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



Hello Members:  
The 2025 Extravaganza Tickets are available. They are \$10.00 each and on sale at meetings and the luncheon. The proceeds go toward scholarship for high school seniors interested in becoming educators. Please support our unit's efforts to

sell these tickets. You have four chances to win!!!! BIG Thank you to those who have already bought a ticket. Also, if anyone is interested in joining this FREF Committee you are warmly welcomed. Just let me know. *Shirley*

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership...

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



Where oh where did 2024 go? Snap! Yes, it seemed like I snapped my fingers and it was gone! Gone are the resolutions of 2024. So I guess now is the time to think of resolutions for 2025. Perhaps one resolution is to try to bring in a new BCREA member. Many long-time friends or those who are newly retired could enjoy belonging to our group. You can tell others about the benefits of joining by sharing a Newsletter, recommending our website of broadrea.org or contacting me. I will call or send information to any prospective

member. Our membership at meetings has been growing. There were 57 members and 1 guest who enjoyed our December meeting. Let's try to top it in January. Perhaps your resolution could be to add to our number by attending our January meeting. Bring a friend. We have great presentations, delicious food and fun socializing with others. Whatever your wishes, dreams and resolutions are for 2025, my wish is that each of you has a happy and healthy new year!

**LuAnn**

## Fundraising

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



Hi Everyone, The December meeting was great. We were entertained by the **Plantation Park Elementary School Chorus**. They were terrific. Our Fun Zoom BINGO is coming on April 17th. The cards are \$10 for 5 games. Cards will be available for purchase at the January, March and April meetings. You can also send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your payment to:

Carol Roland  
9721 SW 14 Place  
Davie, FL 33324

BINGO									
1	27	33	48	75					
8	19	45	56	61					
3	18	20	49	69					
15	26	41	53	66					
2	21	37	46	65					

Hope to see you all at the January meeting

**Barbara**

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service  
every time

TOP  
WORK  
PLACES

SunSentinel  
MEDIA GROUP

## Literacy

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



Happy New Year and Happy Reading. Here are some New Year's resolutions to add to your list for 2025,  
\* **Read a favorite book** to a young child. Or take time for you and an older child to read a book together.

\* **Encourage others to read** and visit the library. Support all authors and books. Remember the books you loved as a child and those you love to read to your children and grandkids.

\* **Donate one** new or gently used child's book to

our BCREA book box. If everyone brings in one book we will have over 50 books to pass on to children, helping them develop a love for reading. A big thank you to everyone who brought children's books to the December meeting. Let's continue filling up the book box.

\* **And stay happy.** Take time to relax and read a book. Research shows that reading can reduce stress, improve memory, boost creativity, and even help you have a better night's sleep. *Sandy*

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 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

you don't think you would have a winning ticket, FYI - **Anne French** won the Club \$100 and **Judy Mager** won the grand prize of \$500! We have a lucky club!

Winners in the Scholarship fundraiser (below, left) were L-R \$20, **Shirley Swartz**; and \$10 each - **Marvalyn Rhett**, **Linda Gerson**, and again, **Marvalyn Rhett**! Yay, Marvalyn!

### Bev's Bytes.....

Sad news from longtime member **Bertilda Henderson** - her husband **Luther** passed back in May. Our condolences to her and her family. **Darcy Drago** has been hospitalized with pneumonia and the flu. She's home now but has a long road to recovery. Thanks to **Missy Belsito** for taking over for Darcy at the "collection table." **Cindy O'Linn** had wrist surgery last month. She was supposed to have the other wrist done when the first one healed but has decided she doesn't want that much pain again! **Carol Roland** and husband **Mike** will be in NC as usual for the holidays. FREF chair **Shirley Swartz** has received 40 Extravaganza tickets which she'll be selling at the January-April meetings. Or you can order some using the coupon on page 4. In case



Winning flowers were **JamesEtta Warner**, **Karen Avery**, **Jill Wilson** and **Ellen Emery**. Thanks again to **Carol Roland** for donating the flowers. Winning other donated prizes were **Virginia Slater**, **JoAnne Kitchen Simmons**, and **Cindy O'Linn**. **LuAnn Comes** reports 58 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 2025!



*Bev*

- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

### Seen at the December Meeting



Ann Graves &  
Susan Lochrie



Chorus waits to come in!

#### 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

#### BCREA T-Shirts Order Form

Royal blue  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve collared shirt with the BCREA logo on the right chest.

These shirts are flat knit 65/35 poly/cotton pique.

Cost: \$25.00 per shirt. Checks made payable to BCREA

Deadline: October 26, 2024

Delivery at November 7th meeting.

Questions, please call Anne French 954-579-1719.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_XS \_\_S \_\_M  
\_\_L \_\_XL \_\_XXL \_\_XXXL

Please make check payable to BCREA.

Mail check and order form to:

Anne French  
1017 NE 28 Drive  
Wilton Manors, Fl. 33334

