
BTU RETIREES NEWSLETTER

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Happy Saint Patrick's Day- March 17th

Dear Retirees:

I hope you are appreciating the warm weather we are having in Florida. The folks up north have had really frigid and snowy weather. Some folks have had really warm weather just today. But as our President says he is not sure the climate is changing.

I feel the need to say that I think about the recent election a lot. Some of the men and women chosen to lead our country do not seem to be the right people for their jobs. At the moment there is some turmoil in the cabinet and other positions. I really pray that things settle down and all the laws are not rolled back to the 50's and 60's. I will be sending emails to our members asking for your input on issues that affect all of us- Social Security, Medicare, retirement, and people appointed to run our country. Please call or email your representatives to show your support or not on the issue. Our representatives do pay attention to large numbers of calls and emails and letters and petitions. Remember they want to keep their jobs – or at least hold the seat for their party. It is no secret that public education is under attack. And our new Department of

Education Secretary will not support public education. Many colleges are letting go education professors and teacher's -Nova Southeastern is one. Please help support our teachers in any way you can.

On to more pleasant thoughts-. Twenty retirees went to Nova Southeastern Fort Lauderdale Art Museum on Wednesday, February 15th. Betty arranged for a wonderful buffet lunch at a great price that everyone said was delicious. The group was then divided in two and we went on a guided tour. My docent was extremely knowledgeable and members in other groups said theirs was also. Many said they would like to go again to a museum next year.

The March activity is going to be lunch at Olive Garden and a play about Danny Kaye at the Stage Door Theater in Coral Springs. I am looking forward to seeing the play. In April we are going to the Isles Casino (smoke free) in Pompano for lunch and some fun at the slots. Watch for more information on this activity. In May we will have our closing luncheon. In the past it has always been lots of fun. Remember to reserve the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September through May for BTU/R.

The Tuesday group continues throughout the year. It welcomes everyone to join them. See the details in this newsletter. It is hard to believe that we only have 3 more months of Wednesday activities. Time certainly moves fast.

As of this date we still have no one interested in being our treasurer starting as of July 1st. . I have volunteered to continue as President, - Betty Bunnell has volunteered to continue as Vice President and events planner- Kate

Alexander has volunteered to continue as Membership Chairperson and send out the Newsletter-

Susan Pignatto put her name in to be Secretary at the December meeting and we still have no one for Treasurer. As there is no opposition for any position no election is necessary. If anyone wants to volunteer to be Treasurer let anyone on the board know. You will not be handling cash.

If anyone has ideas on an activity you feel our members would enjoy please let us know. We want to have as many people as possible join us each month.

I just heard our President has announced that he has called out The Times, The Los Angeles Post, CNN and others as creating "Fake" news. He is trying to limit freedom of the press. He is coming up with plans to dismantle our current health plan. His new plan they say will cost older citizens much more money. The payment for insurance will be based on age- not income. Please be active in supporting those groups that will look after your interests. Go to a town hall meeting, or a political meeting. Sign the petitions, make calls, donate money, email- do whatever you can so you become part of the large number of upset citizens that would like to keep the benefits that we earned by working so hard until we retired.

Movie Club

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. at the Tamarac Café and Diner (SW corner of Nob Hill and McNab). Come join us! We schmooze, eat lunch and get to see some terrific movies. For more information, call Marilyn Boudin at 954-472-3381.

Canasta and MahJong players also meet. Call Marilyn Boundin #954-472-3381 for times and locations.

Book Club

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the BTU office at 10:00 a.m.

March- Storyed Life of A.J.Fikny by Gabriel Zevin

April- Forgetting Time by Sherry Guskin

May- Rent Collector by Wright

June- Color of Secrets by Ashford

July- Golden Son by Goudda



Happy Easter

SUNSHINE

If you have any glad or sad news to share, please call Rhoda Flohr (561)413-3889 or email her at rhodaflohr11031@comcast.net

BIRTHDAYS



March 4th - Anita Slavin

March 7th - Brenda Fitzgerald

March 14th - Fran Weiner

March 18th – Angela Johnson

March 20th - Nancy Adams

March 20th - Renee Schwartz

March 22nd - Susan Raskin

March 28th - Mary Pavlinek

March 31st - Anne Norce

March 31st - Sue Norton

April 3rd - Caryl Hattan

April 4th - Susan Rubeck

April 5th - Barbara Willis

April 5th - Leatrice Gallob

March 9th - Marcia Satz

April 10th Valerie Proffer

April 13th - Gail Trotman

April 14th - Mary Curry

April 20th - Sharon Glickman

If I missed anyone's special day. It is only because I do not have it on my membership list.

Enjoy your special day and may you have many more !!!

REMEMBER.. WE CAN NO LONGER TAKE CASH FOR ANY EVENT. WHEN RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED--THE DEADLINE IS FIRM. NO EXCEPTIONS. Remember that SEATS ARE LIMITED AT THE BTU OFFICE.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS **2017**

Mar 15- Play at The Stage Door Theater

“The Boy From Brooklyn”the story of Danny Kaye—a musical

April 19- Visit to Isles Casino for lunch and luck

May 17- End of the Year Lunch at Lago Mar Country Club in Plantation and possible fashion show .

EACH EVENT HAVE A FIRM DEADLINE- NO

EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE ON THESE FINAL DATES.IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND AN EVENT PLEASE GET YOUR CHECK IN ON TIME.

Smart Stage Matinee Series and More at Parker Playhouse

We are so fortunate to live in a county that embraces the arts. Below are special educator programs that offer discounts to teachers, as well as, other programs that may be of interest to you. I hope that many of you will take advantage of these fabulous performances to support the arts in South Florida.

Discover Broadway for Teachers

Please note that these theater packages at the Broward Center go on sale Wednesday, August 17, 2016 and can be reserved through

the group sales team at 954-660-6307 or 954-660-6328. Packages include 1 orchestra level ticket, free admission to a pre-show meet the stars workshop at 5:30, 6:30 pre-show diner including wine and refreshments. 8:00p.m. performance and parking voucher. **NOTE: LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER ORDER**

DISNEY'S LITTLE MERMAID Wed. Mar 1, 2017 at 5:30p., - \$97.40

SOMETHING ROTTEN! Wed. Mar 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. \$97.40

MATILDA THE MUSICAL Wed. Apr 26, 2017 5:30 p.m. \$97.40

FINDING NEVERLAND Wed. June 14, 2017 at 5:30p.m. \$102.15

SIX DOLLAR SMART STAGE MATINEE SERIES FOR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE:

Last year more than 40 members of our group took advantage of the morning matinee series that is for students (former SEAS program) and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please advise if you are interested in attending any of these performances and I will reserve the minimum of 10..

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MARCH DATE FOR THE FABULOUS FLORIDA FOLLIES PERFORMANCE AT PARKER PLAYHOUSE IS TBA **MONEY** for these performances goes to Ronney Virgillito since Betty Bunnell already has made reservations for us.

Your Vice- President/Program Coordinator,

Betty Bunnell

If you have not renewed your membership use the following form and send your check for \$65 to the BTU Office : ATTENTION HOLLY

<p>Broward Teachers Union Retirees Chapter</p> <p>I understand that my \$65 membership dues are for a period of one year. These dues entitle me to all benefits derived from BTU's state and national affiliates. (Life time \$24)</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>D.O.B. _____</p> <p>Home mailing address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Home phone () _____</p> <p>Cell () _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>
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Signature _____

Date _____

Please remit to BTU Office, 6000 North
University Drive, Tamarac, FL 33321

Telephone # (954) 486-6250 ATTENTION: Holly
Corliss

PHOTOS

Monica Lynn as always has
provided us with great photos of
our events. Check them out at :
<https://bturetirees.shutterfly.com/>

Reminder

Volunteer Hours- please
send to Kate Alexander
Kama1950@bellsouth.net or
#954-475-2671

Volunteer hours are for any
time you spend helping a non
family member-trips to the
doctor, shopping ,
classrooms etc.



Dates of Note:

March 8th- International Women's Day

March 9th- Purim

March 15th Ides of March

March 17- St. Patrick's Day

April 1- April Fools' Day

April 9th- Palm Sunday

April 10th- Purim

April 14th Good Friday

April 16th Easter

April 22nd Earth Day

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Stuff you didn't know you didn't know

- Men can read smaller print than women but women hear better

-Coca Cola was originally green.

-It is impossible to lick your elbow.

-the State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

-the percentage of Africa that is wilderness is only 28%

-The percentage of North America that is wilderness is 38%

The cost of raising a medium sized dog to the age of eleven is \$16,400

-The average number of people airborne over the US in any given hour: 61,000

-Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

-The first novel ever written on a typewriter- Tom Sawyer.

2017 Legislative Session

The 60 day session runs this year from Tuesday, March 7 through Friday May 5th.

It is a critical fact that everything that the Legislature has done to public education over the past 20 years can be undone.. Each legislative session is a chance to make a difference. It may not be easy but if we as educators don't stand up for the rights of our children, who will!

You can make your voice heard during this session : (1) sign up for text alerts-often on very short notice, the FEA sends out action alerts – text feaactivists to 31996. Sign up today so you can be ready when a quick response is needed.

(2) share info on social media. When the BTU or state unions posts on social media-

share it. Parents trust and respect what we think about what the Legislature is doing.

(3) Call your legislators- contact them in their home office or in Tallahassee. It is an important part of having educators' voices heard. You can find the address of your particular legislator on myflorida.gov, or FEAactioncenter.org/act/contact-your-lawmakers.

Help protect public education in Florida.

We are facing an uphill battle in Washington since Betty DeVos has been selected as the head of the Department of Education .She is a champion of for profit charter schools and wants to use taxpayer money to fund private and religious schools.

Things that must change to improve public education;

Ensure adequate funding- Florida ranks 35th in the nation in average teacher salary. How can we retain good teachers when we don't pay them a competitive wage.

LET TEACHERS TEACH- Elected officials need to recognize and trust us as professionals who work every day with studentys and know what works best in our classrooms.

Reduce time spent in testing- Florida's testing system is out of control. It cheats our students of valuable teaching time. All of us know that these tests were never designed to punish schools and students.

Fostering creativity and teaching critical thinking skills are far more important than a test score which we all know can be skewed from one day to the next, depending on how these students feel that day.

Just because we are retirees doesn't mean that we have dropped off the grid. We have grandchildren, neighbors, friends etc. who are affected by what the legislature does with education. We will always be educators and be interested in education.

Many of us volunteer in the schools and mentor young teachers. We present innovative Grants each year to help with classroom projects that otherwise would not be affordable-yes, we know how much of our own money we spent just to inspire students.

So ...please pay attention to what our elected officials are doing in Tallahassee and Washington. It may not affect you immediately today but it will in the future.