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# BTU RETIREES NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 issue 4 November/December 2017

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March-April 2018

Dear Retirees,

It is with heavy heart that I write this letter. I spent the last week crying.

Who would believe that we would ever see such carnage in one of our schools?

My heart breaks for all who were lost and injured and their parents and loved ones and friends. I worked with Chris and Debbie Hixon at South Broward High for many years. His wife is still there. Many, many retirees came to his funeral, as well as over a thousand people. I know many of you knew of someone who has passed or was injured and my heart goes out to you. Perhaps the only positive thing to come out of this is the serious conversation and actions that might be taken by our students to spur on our legislators to do something about limiting the kind of weapon that was used and the age at which anyone can obtain a gun and background checks for mental illness. Those kids at Stoneman Douglas "did Broward County proud" at the rally and on TV interviews. And perhaps the school board will start and think about spending more money for more supports to those children who need it. "That Boy" should have had lots of support as he transitioned to the High School. To my fellow book club members, we have had this discussion many times. How you had that kid you knew would grow up to do something awful—How no one wants to do anything because of the paper work and then the money it costs to have enough psychologists and

guidance for our kids. The government is now willing to spend money to provide teachers with guns but not for teacher raises, supplies and good computers. Suddenly there is going to be money for tons of security from our state- but there was never any for student funding or teacher raises. Makes by blood boil.

BTU stepped in and offered support for all the teachers who needed it. They helped organize an emergency trip to Tallahassee for a rally, contacted teachers to go to the BB&T Center for the Town Hall CNN put on. BTU also had its own Town Hall Saturday at BTU after the rally in Fort Lauderdale. Randi Weingarten came in and spoke. They have been doing quite a bit. Thanks go to Anna Fusco and team for their hard work. The district is going to have to do better at protecting their children and employees. .

News from Tallahassee is not good either for our teacher unions, or for teachers. . As I write this the Decertification Bill is moving forward. Please, please email and call your legislators ask them to vote it down. Please email and call even those you know will vote it down-Senator Nelsons representative they use those numbers for statistics and the calls are important. On the Federal level Medicare and Social Security is really being attacked. Again, call and email. You get information on all the bills from emails from BTU/R and BTU and they have links and phone numbers.

BUNCO was fun and we all had a great afternoon last month with our Queen of BUNCO Selma Keil directing. Thank you Selma you did a great job (as usual). Those who went on the Carrie B, I was told, enjoyed the ride. (.I went to Chris Hixon funeral at the same time.)

We have the play at the Stage Door Theater and a movie at the IMAX Theater for the next

two months activities and then our closing luncheon in May. Come and join us.

We welcome all. Always nice to meet new members and old. The Tuesday group also welcomes all members. Book club is always interesting and it is at BTU the first Tuesday of the month. The second Tuesday of the month is Movies, then the third is Canaster and the forth is MahJongg.

I am asking those of you who contribute to our fund for the Teacher Grants if any of you has a problem with giving what we have collected so far to the Fund for the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High shooting in the name of BTU/Retired.

Just email me if you have a problem with this.

Thank you to my board- for all of your help. Everything you all do is really appreciated.

Life is really short and we are reminded of that constantly. I personally have been really shaken by the massacre. My closing words for this letter are please remember to say, " I Love You," to your loved ones and keep well.

Proudly your President,

Carol Fischer

## MOVIE CLUB

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 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 for times and locations.

## BOOK CLUB

March- "Orphan 8" by Kim Van Alkemade

April "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn

May "Midnight in Broad Daylight: A Japanese Family Caught between Two Worlds" by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto



## BIRTHDAYS

March 4<sup>th</sup>- Anita Slavin

March 7<sup>th</sup>- Brenda Fitzgerald

March 9<sup>th</sup>- Kathleen Barnard

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Schatz

March 18<sup>th</sup> Angela Johnson

March 22<sup>nd</sup>- Susan Raskind

March 28<sup>th</sup> Mary Pavlinek

March 31- Anne Norce

March 31- Sue Norton

April 1-Kay Cleary

April 3- Caryl Hattan

April 4<sup>th</sup>-Sue Rubeck

April 9<sup>th</sup> Marcia Satz

April 10<sup>th</sup>- Valerie Proffer

April 13<sup>th</sup>- Gail Trotman

April 14<sup>th</sup> Mary Curry

April 20<sup>th</sup>- Sharon Glickman

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MONEY FOR ALL EVENTS IS SENT TO SUE WARGA, our Treasurer, at 2639 Lee Street, Hollywood, FL 33020**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**- Stage Door Theater "Nice Work", cost determined by the tickets we can get.. Lunch on your own with/without group.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**- IMAX theater-TBA

**May**- End of the Year luncheon at the Grand Palms

Betty Bunnell has lined up tickets for the Smart Matinee series which are \$6 bargain cultural events at Parker and the Broward Center. More info to follow.

## PHOTOS

Monica Lynn , as always, provides us with great photos of our events. Check them out at <http://btiretires.shutterfly.com>

### **Reminder- VOLUNTEER HOURS**

These are collected every two months:

October, December, February, April, June.  
These hours generate funds for us from the National NEA/FEA. Volunteer hours are for any time you spend helping a non-family member- trips to the doctor, shopping, classroom, food bank, library etc. Send to Kate Alexander [kama1950@bellsouth.net](mailto:kama1950@bellsouth.net) or #954-475-2671

Dates of Note

### **JUST FOR LAUGHS**

-What do you call a deer with no eyes? No eye deer.

-The past, present and future walk into a bar. It was tense

-what do you call cheese that's not yours? it's nacho cheese.

-What do you get when you put a candle in a suit of amour? A knight light.

-There were two peanuts walking down a dark alley. One was assaulted.

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News of Note

The FRS provides a defined benefit to public employees. It offers a modest but stable income and helps recruit and retain experienced employees and benefits the state economy. Pensions are a good deal for taxpayers too.

The spending from the pension checks of the 424,191 retired public employees: \$15.5 Billion in economic output in Florida; 108,370 jobs, paying these workers in Florida \$4.8 billion in income. Pension benefits are a good deal for the economy because for each dollar "invested" by Florida taxpayers there is \$4.15 in total economic activity in this state.