



*Brevard Federation of Teachers
Retired Chapter News
“Retired, Not Expired”*

Volume 14, Number 4
February 2010

The President's Column

To those of you who have ever fantasized about beautiful white Christmases, sleigh rides, hot chestnuts roasting over an open fire, may you never fantasize again. The reality we faced these past few weeks (which felt like months) should be enough to never want to be reminded of cold again. To add insult to injury, our heating coil refused to pump warm air, so we had a few really chilly days and nights, inside as well as outside. Lesson from our repairman – reverse cycle systems do not function well when the temperature drops below 32 degrees.

December's luncheon at The Tides – good group, good food, good cake and Carol Jose's presentation, not only good, but inspiring. Her subject, “You are Not Alone”, the title of the book she authored with Evelyn Grubbe that followed Grubbe's remarkable battle against government bureaucracy in order to get information regarding prisoners of war and MIAs. She was determined to never give up, even though her nation did. Carol took us through Evelyn's journey and her own in getting this story told and she presented it with a delicate balance of sadness, frustration and a large dose of humor. Her book is definitely recommended reading.

Now, on to February's meeting at the Central Library. For the first time in years, we were unable to connect with the Florida Humanities Road Scholars. Jan Erickson, the library's adult program co-ordinator came across a program by Maria Koonce dealing with the six Tudor queens. Koonce's background is impressive – she came to the US from Uruguay on a Fulbright scholarship, received her doctorate in 1986, co-ordinated the ESOL program in Broward County, and is an author, consultant and trainer who brings professional concepts and applications (with humor) to educators at state, national and international presentations. She and her husband have lectured on cruise lines on a variety of topics. How cool is that? Read the program blurb and please bring all your friends and neighbors. A good turnout is always appreciated.

So until February – a belated Happy New Years! How many resolutions have you broken so far?

Join the RICH Program

Fern Patton

When the call went out for assistance with the FAIR test, the following people answered the call: Deborah Grimes, Cora Knighton, Ellen Gayle, Annie Jones, Barbara Peete, Betty Sutton, Carethea Mathews, Candace Bodner, Judy Wilkie, Alice Ramos, Marge Misits, Sheila Cootes, Patsy Shearer, Lonnie Ford and me.

The next window for Test 3 (yes, TEST THREE!) is from March 15th – May 7th. I'm sure teachers still would appreciate our help in monitoring the class while they test K-2. Remember, you do not have to be certified in elementary to do this. The teachers' plans center on seatwork for the class and you just monitor to “keep the lid on”. Even an hour is a great help and you can set your time with the teacher.

You can choose your school (and teacher) you want or we will help you find one. In fact, we have had a call for help from Gemini and Palm Bay Elementary schools. We have Joy Salamone notify the principal at the schools, so they will welcome you.

COME ON!! Let's help these teachers, so they know how great BFT retirees are. We have a great name for the group – BFT/RICH (**R**etirees **I**n **C**lassrooms **H**elping). Thanks to Lonnie Ford for the great suggestion!

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Membership News



Sheila Cootes, Membership Chair

Our “newest new” members are **Annette Osborne** and **Jeannine Scianna**. Annette taught English (grades 9 and 12) at Palm Bay High School. She enjoys writing novels and poems. Jeannine taught at the South Alternative Learning Center and Melbourne High School. She lists gardening, piano playing, antique collecting, reading and volunteering as her interests.



Anne Byrd, Bob Byrd, Jeanne Dietz, Charlene Fisher, Jim Fisher, Linda Hoal, Susan How, Marion Johnson, Rosalie Lurruscain, Inez Morrison, Paulette Paradiso, Fern Patton, Jay Ann Preston, Skippy Lober, Carol Robitschek, Don Steele, Betty Sutton and Judith Wilkie, renewing members, paid their 2009-10 dues since December’s newsletter and so join our illustrious Honor Roll.

Carla Stevenson is our newest Life Member and decided to take advantage of the “installment plan” for paying the \$300.00 lifetime membership amount. BRT/R will pay her \$30.00 local dues amount this year. She says, “This is a great way to get a lifetime membership. Thanks.” If you’re interested in the installment plan, call Sheila at 321-452-3580 and work out the plan that’s best for you. As one member said, “My mom is still alive at 99 and I’m pretty sure I have her genes, so I definitely will be saving money with the lifetime membership.”

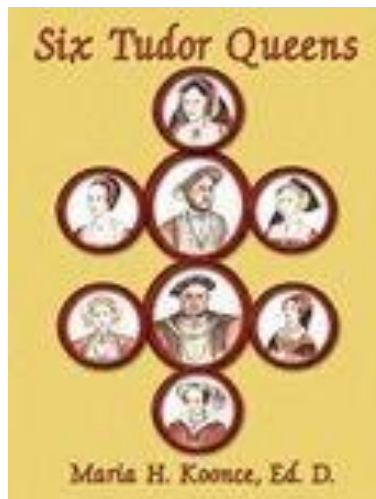
Byrd’s Eye View

The Great Piggy Bank Adventure is a new attraction at Epcot, all about teaching children financial concepts, such as setting goals, saving and spending wisely, the power of interest and diversifying investments. Children (grand-, great-grand-) can play a free online game (piggybank.disney.go.com), also sponsored by the T. Rowe Price Mutual Fund Company.



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February Meeting
Tudor Talk

The Tudor period was a turning point in English history, marked by war, royal alliances and dalliances and, in Henry VIII's reign, a complete break from the all-powerful Catholic Church. This interesting period in history will be the subject of a free program on **Thursday, February 4th at 1:00 p.m.**, hosted by the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa (at located at 308 Forrest Ave.) and co-sponsored by the Brevard Federation of Teachers/Retiree Chapter. Dr. Maria Koonce and Bill Koonce will talk about the tumultuous events that shaped England's history. Both are retired but still professionally active educators and Dr. Koonce also authored "*Six Tudor Queens*", a tongue-in-cheek play of an imaginary meeting, in our times, of the six wives of Henry VIII. The presentation will highlight this period of England's history, beginning with the War of the Roses, and will culminate with participants taking parts and performing the comedy. Their conversation is modern and reflects each of the queens' unique experiences with this complex giant of a man, who changed the course of our own heritage. The interactive and participatory format will make this presentation not only informative, but highly enjoyable! For more information, contact the Central Brevard Library at 321-633-1792.



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Your BFT Membership Card Just Became More Valuable!
Discounts for BFT Members Only

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Higgins, Linda VALIC	(321) 536-6155	World Electronics	(321) 636-9951
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Island Auto Trim, Suite 3	(321) 453-6975		
Island Pool Construction, Inc.	(321) 632-8186		
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Announcements and Pronouncements

Help Wanted

Nominating Committee – We need several willing souls to form Nominating Committee for this year’s election slate – President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Please contact Cecily Cain.

Need judges for speech tournament. Tournament will be held April 24th; judges to act in various categories. Volunteers will need to be registered with the school district. There will be a brief training session in the morning for the judges and as always, a fun day as students show off their speaking skills. Please contact Lisa M. Rehm, Secondary Language Arts Teacher, Brevard Public Schools, 633-1000, ext. 360.

More volunteers wanted for the RICH program. Contact Fern Patton at 636-9250.

Brevard Symphony Orchestra

Retired BFT members are entitled to purchase half-priced tickets for the Symphony at the King Center. Season tickets for matinee performances on February 6th, March 6th and April 10th can be purchased for \$30.00 to \$37.50. Individual tickets are available for all performances at half-price. Call either BSO, 242-2024, or the King Center at 242-2219 and tell them you need the teacher discount.

Bring Books!

Greetings from your friendly bookseller,
Barbara Mulligan.

The suggestions I made concerning a calendar did not meet with the approval of our membership, so now as a means of raising money for scholarships we will start a bookstore of sorts. Having no experience whatsoever at this sort of endeavor, we will give it a whirl. The plan is that anyone wishing to donate books should bring them to the February meeting; then books will be placed for sale at \$1.50 for hard covers and \$1.00 for paperbacks. Please plan to participate in this program as there should be some great novels and non-fiction available – many of them like new!!

Volunteer hours

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Caroline McGuire. She can be reached at 254-0615 or chaleym@aol.com if you miss turning them in at a meeting.

FEA Membership Cards

Paid Up Members – Please be on the lookout for your new FEA Membership Card. The card entitles you to valuable discounts. They are being sent out during January and February of this year.

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OFFICERS

CALENDAR

President: Cecily Cain 723-6463
Vice-President: Patsy Shearer 632-9036
Secretary: Anne Byrd 452-6837
Treasurer: Jim Fisher 639-3762
Membership Chairman: Sheila Cootes 452-3580
Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702
Program Chairman: Kay Aiken 777-4870 or
626-7172

Meeting
February 4th, 2010
1:00 p.m.
Tudor Talk – Dr. Maria Koonce
Central Brevard Public Library
308 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, FL
(also bring books to donate and
money to buy donated books)

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2009-10 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member

_____ Annual dues \$66.00
_____ Lifetime dues \$300.00
(Local, state and national)

Renewing Member

_____ Annual dues \$66.00 (For non-life members)
_____ Lifetime dues \$300
(Local, state and national)
_____ Local dues \$30 (For lifetime members only)
(Must be paid each year)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Receive newsletter by E-mail: Yes _____ No _____

Former School _____ Subject or Level _____

Interests _____

Signature _____

(Please complete this form and mail it and your check to Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953 or just give it to her at one of our meetings.)

Retired Teachers Chapter
Brevard Federation of Teachers
1007 South Florida Avenue
Rockledge, FL 32953