



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

Volume 27, Number 4
Feb. 2023

The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

Well, we made it!!! 2023!!!!!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and celebrated with friends and family once again after so many years of family Zoom get-togethers or FaceTime appointments to watch each other open gifts delivered to your front door by UPS instead of Santa!

The Taddies welcomed our family from Utah to spend a few weeks with us, and they were joined by 21 of our Florida family members for a fabulous Christmas celebration after three years apart! The most jaw-dropping part of this family celebration was that in three years all the kids became teenagers and were now taller than me! Two of the boys were over 6 feet tall!!!! But...they still loved the treasures in their stockings and their gifts under the tree!

As was promised, BFT-R monthly meetings will again be held in the Union office in Rockledge! Chris is really looking forward to seeing all of us again!! We hope you will all come to the February 2nd meeting and feel the LOVE of our Valentine’s Day celebration!

Lin Herz has set up some wonderful field trips for all of us to not only learn some things about this state, but to enjoy each other’s company again!

“A new year means a new chapter. I hope 2023 is an incredible part of your story!”



Next Meeting--Thur, Feb.2, 2023

WELCOME BACK TO THE BFT OFFICE!

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

1:00 Speaker: Alexandra Callner

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our February speaker is Alexandra Callner. Alexandra is a clinical consulting hypnotist, who has been in the wellness industry for the better part of 20 years. She practices Buddhist chanting, Transcendental Meditation, and yoga. She believes that thoughts carry their own vibration that attracts or repels our desires, so she spends her life teaching people to control their thoughts. She studied with Dr. Shad Helmstetter, author of the best-selling book *What To Say When You Talk To Yourself* and a leader in the field of brain science.

Alexandra is certified in hypnosis by The National Guild of Hypnosis and Hypnofit Australia. She is trained in a very specialized form of hypnosis specially designed to release trauma and overcome depression and stuck negative emotions, as well as traditional hypnotherapy, which is wonderful for smoking cessation, weight management, and common fears/phobias.

Field Trips

--Lin Herz

On **February 27th at 11:00** we'll be visiting the "**Harry T. and Harriet V. Moore Memorial Park and Museum.**" Harry and Harriet Moore were educators in segregated Brevard. They were the first true civil rights activists of the modern era, and pioneers in the civil rights movement nationally and in Brevard. We'll learn about the Moores, their place in history, and conditions in Brevard County for African Americans at that time.

The Center has a replica of their house on the grounds. The actual house was bombed, killing the Moores, in 1951.

Touring the Moore complex takes about 2 hours. **Admission is free.**

Lunch is on your own afterwards. We'll have a list of some of the local restaurants and their addresses.

RSVP by Monday, February 20th to Joan via email jtaddie@cfl.rr.com or by text 321-266-6006.

If you would like to attend, but need a ride, let Joan know.

Address: 2180 Freedom Ave, Mims

On **March 23rd at 11:00** we'll be touring **Forever Florida.** Margaret Broussard from Forever Florida spoke to us last year about this very special place. We'll be boarding an open-air safari coach that offers fantastic views of the Florida wild, elevated five feet off the earth. Our 2-hour tour will be moderated by Margaret herself, who has extensive knowledge about the plant and animal species in the area. We'll even stop by a floodplain forest and take a look at Bull Creek, a blackwater stream in the Florida wetlands. After the tour, we'll return to the Visitor Center, where we'll eat a picnic lunch.

If our group winds up being more than 20 people, we will be split up into two tours. One group will tour Forever Florida first, and the other group will eat lunch first. Those who RSVP earlier will be able to choose which group they are in.

The field trip is free but donations are greatly appreciated.

RSVP by March 16 to Lin via email lin32905@gmail.com or text 321-960-8194

If you would like to attend, but need a ride, let Joan know via email jtaddie@cfl.rr.com or by text or phone 321-266-6006

Location: 4755 North Kenansville Road, St. Cloud (south of Holopaw)

On **April 11th** we'll meet at **McKee Botanical Gardens** in Vero Beach. McKee's unique 18-acre lush jungle landscape supports one of Florida's most extraordinary botanical collections. Listed on the National Register of Historic places, and recognized by the Garden Conservancy as a preservation project of national significance, McKee Botanical Garden is, as its founders envisioned, a wild place of natural beauty. We'll take a tour of a little over an hour of this gorgeous place.

We're very fortunate that the "Garden of Glass" exhibit will be visiting McKee while we are there. This colorful and thought-provoking exhibit celebrates the beauty, wonderment, and power in the natural world through the medium of glass. This exhibition features 10 stunning glass orchids, water lilies, and plants standing anywhere from six to fourteen feet tall on display throughout the Garden.

We'll be having lunch at the Garden Cafe after our tour. You may not bring food into the Gardens.

McKee has 3 wheelchairs available. Please call ahead to reserve a wheelchair.

To answer your questions or RSVP contact Lin at lin32905@gmail.com or text to 321-960-8194.

Admission is \$13 for Seniors. More info on how to pay will be in the next newsletter.

RSVPs a must no later than March 28.

If you would like to carpool contact Joan via email jtaddie@cfl.rr.com or by text 321-266-6006.

Address: 350 US-1, Vero Beach, FL 32962



Ride Sharing

Need a ride to a meeting or field trip? Willing to pick up a nearby member & give them a ride? We are starting a ride sharing list. If you need a ride or are willing to pick someone up nearby, contact:

Ride sharing for meetings: Email, call or text Nancy Johnson at nanjoh99@gmail.com or 321-960-1246

Ride sharing for field trips: Email, call or text Joan Taddie at jtaddie@cfl.rr.com or 321-266-6006



Legislative Report

--Patty Farley

Gov. Ron DeSantis was sworn in for a second term with an inaugural speech in which he celebrated Florida as a “citadel of freedom” while focusing on a wide array of his usual targets grouped together in his condemnation of “woke ideology.”

In his 16-minute speech, DeSantis defended Florida families, law enforcement and parental rights. He defended his “don’t say gay legislation” and frequently proclaimed Florida as being number one in many categories including education where we know we are not number one. While condemning other states, partisan interest groups and the federal government, he cast himself as the leader of the Free State of Florida and in his words.....

“We reject this woke ideology,” DeSantis said. “We seek normalcy, not philosophical lunacy. We will not allow reality, facts and truth to become optional. We will never surrender to the woke mob.”

He did not explain to the crowd anything about Florida’s high number of Covid deaths, vacancies in teachers or how freedom includes book banning for Florida schools.

Many of you are aware that most of the work in writing and submitting bills in the Florida Legislature takes place in the committee weeks that occur prior to the beginning of the 2023 Florida legislative session.

This is a year that session begins in March and the committee weeks have been assigned.

We will be watching carefully for bills relating to education and working families to keep you informed.

The dates for the interim committee meetings are as follows:

- Monday, December 12 – Friday, December 16, 2022
- Tuesday, January 3 – Friday, January 6, 2023
- Tuesday, January 17 – Friday, January 20, 2023
- Monday, January 23 – Friday, January 27, 2023
- Monday, February 6 – Friday, February 10, 2023
- Monday, February 13 – Friday February 17, 2023
- Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24, 2023

The Regular Session will convene on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.



Read, Recycle, and Reward Program



--Rita Hewett

We attended Christmas in the Park 2022 at the Eddie Taylor Park in Melbourne. We had 4 tables for our books, one table for each grade level. The Pre-K section was manned by Linda Guiles. She had our little red wagon full of books for the 3 and 4 year olds. The wagon was low enough for the young children to look inside and select their own book bag. Kindergarten was manned by Rita Hewett, first grade was watched by Sheila Bollinger, and the fourth table had books for older grades and was manned by Cindy Woznicki. Lots of children and parents came to see us. Parents were finding books for Christmas presents. A group of special needs young adults also came by to select books. One young man asked for a teddy bear and book. He was so happy to find one! He took the bear out and gave it a big bear hug. Most of our books are gone. It was a very successful giveaway.



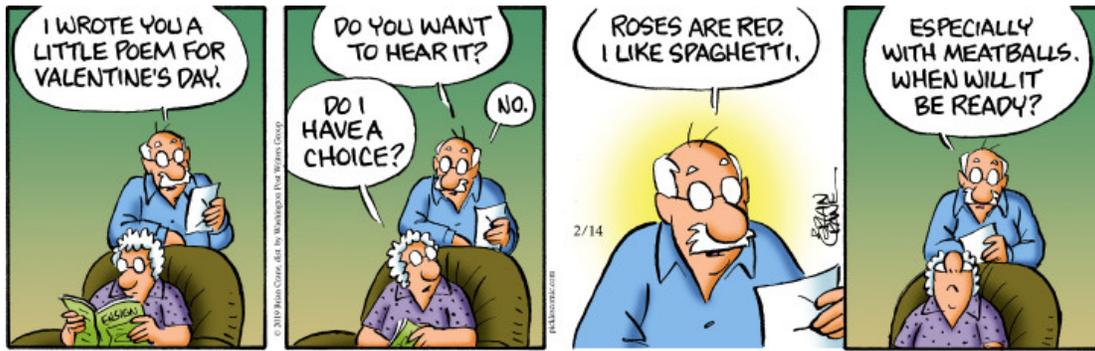
Lin Herz Travels to Israel to Honor Her Family

--Joan Taddie

Daniel Burmann found Lin on ancestry.com around 2014. He was looking for Jewish families whose ancestors or family members came from Markt Berolzheim, a municipality in Bavaria, Germany. He was going to put on an exhibition honoring Jews from Markt Berolzheim who fought in WW1. He sent Lin a list of Herzes and asked her who on the list was related to her. She only knew one, but she sent him a list which included her grandfather and his brothers who all had the surname Levi and who all fought in WW1. She also sent him their photos and photos of their families and explained that all were killed by the Nazis, except her grandfather. Lin also sent Daniel a list of her great grandmother, Mathilde Herz's siblings. Because Daniel helped Lin with her genealogy, she did some research for him.

Daniel has just published a book on the history of the Jews from Markt Berolzheim. The book's title is *Juden in Markt Berolzheim: Schicksal Einer Juedischen Landgemeinde*. Translated, the title is Jews in Markt Berolzheim: Fate of a Rural Community. Lin had the honor of writing one of the forwards for the book. She leaves for Israel on February 14th, where she will be going on a tour and then attending a ceremony on Yad Vashem at the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, where Daniel will be donating copies of his book about the history of the Jews from Markt Berolzheim. Lin's mom, her dad, his mom, and at least 3 generations before her were born there.

VOLUNTEER HOURS--Only a few people are sending in their Volunteer Hours. We know you are out there doing all kinds of wonderful things in your community! Send hours to snv1@cfl.rr.com Please put volunteer hours in the subject line.



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Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

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Thur, Feb. 2 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office
 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge
 -11:30 Brown bag lunch
 -12:00 Business meeting
 -1:00 Speaker-Alexandra Callner

Next meeting - Thur, Mar. 2

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2022-2023 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member

___ Annual dues \$76.00
 ___ Lifetime dues \$400.00
 (state and national)

Renewing Member

___ Annual dues \$76.00 (For non-life members)
 ___ Local dues for Lifetime members **\$30 each year**
 ___ Lifetime dues \$400 (BFTR pays local dues 1st year)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Former School _____ Subject /Grade Level _____

Interests _____

Signature _____

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to **Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953.**