



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.brta.biz

brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Thomas Giambra

Recording Sec.: Stephen Parada

1st VP: Russell Gervasi

Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting

2nd VP: Renate Yuhnke

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke

Past Pres: Al Marabella

At Large: Josephine Cross, Arnold Harting, Michael Marszalek

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Clarann Josef, Cynthia Mehary, Theresa Pope, Sara Rodland, Dolores Scanlon, Guy Schiavi, Marie Wu

Fall Edition

August, 2022

Upcoming Events

Sept. 7, 2022--

Annual Meeting
and Luncheon at
the Millennium. In-
formation on page
6

Oct. 2-6, 2022--

Spotlight on Nash-
ville

Dec. 1-5, 2022--

Spotlight on San
Antonio

Dec. 1, 2022--

Holiday Luncheon
at Salvatore's

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the summer weather. Of course, as I write this, the day looks like a washout for outdoor activities. However, the rain was much needed.

It was so nice to see many of you at the Aqua Restaurant for the Spring Luncheon. I hope you enjoyed the luncheon and the chance to connect with friends. Thank you for your generous support of the split club. The money will be used for the scholarship fund. As was announced, the Scholarship Committee has awarded three Buffalo students a \$1500 scholarship. I want to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Clarann Josef, for their effort on this project.

The BRTA Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held at the Millennium Hotel on September 7, 2022. At the annual meeting, besides welcoming new retirees, the Membership will be taking a vote to approve some changes in the bylaws of the organization. Information about the changes will be on the tables at the luncheon. This is the first time in many years that the organization has suggested changes. I need to thank the Bylaws Committee, chaired by Russell Gervasi, for all of the work on this project.

BRTA held its annual Don Guerra Golf Outing on June 14th at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia. There was a great turnout for this activity. I want to thank Steve Parada for organizing and running this activity again this year.

(Continued on page 3)

Benefits Available to
BRTA Members

Long-term Care Insurance; BRTA Discounts on Long-term Care Insurance: 1-800-655-4899

Tonawanda, NY 716-694-4388

Dental Discounts

The North Park Dental Group
716-836-2242

Vital Savings by Aetna—Mention membership when you are inquiring about discount programs designed to help you save on dental or pharmaceuticals. 1-877-MY-VITAL (1-800-698-4825) or www.vitalsavings.com

Ballroom, Latin, Swing and Other Styles of Dance—Tara Scime at 716-491-0186 or TMSDance@yahoo.com. Mention your BRTA membership and receive a discount.

Faculty Rewards—Discount magazine subscriptions. Go to www.facultyrewards.com and use code 403360

BPO-Call Janet Field at 885-5001 for discount tickets

West Herr Select Vehicle Purchase Plan-

Activate benefit plan before going to the dealership. Go to www.westherrselect.com or call your Select Benefit Concierge (716) 202-3091.

NYSUT Member Benefits: All retired teachers are members of NYSUT and are eligible to use the benefits. Go to memberbenefits.nysut.org

IN MEMORIAM

Crystal Boling Barton	Marian Harrison
Beverly Bell	Prentis D. Henley
Nancy L. Biondolillo	Bonnie Hill
Charles Berinin	Ernestine Moody
Yvonne James Brown	Joseph Regan
Harold Emmanuel Cole	Kathy Riester
Peter DelBello	Arlie Schwan
Judith Dixon	Helen Sherk
Barbara Faust	Ann Swan
	Michael Wech

BRTA would like to acknowledge the passing of those who served the children of Buffalo. If you would like to have someone included in the "In Memoriam" listings, please notify Josephine Cross (636-3014).

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS!!

Joseph and Gail Russo--55 years

Byron and Kathleen Baker--50 years

John and Carolyn Cardarella--50 years

Frequently Requested Numbers

Website: www.brta.biz Email: brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Thomas Giambra 716-877-7796

Membership: Linda Parada—716-875-3392

Luncheons: Mary Agnes Marabella 716-635-9530

Travel: Al Marabella—716-635-9530

Russ Gervasi—716-839-5781

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—716-838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—716-636-3014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

Organizing and keeping track of the membership is a huge job. I would like to thank Linda Parada, our Membership Secretary, who has been doing this for many years.

Putting together this newsletter is not easy. For many years, Elisa Harting has been doing this job for the organization. She has done a fantastic job for BRTA.

As President, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all of our Board members. They have worked tirelessly to keep our membership informed of issues that are important to retirees.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall luncheon. Until then, stay well and take care.

---Tom Giambra

PEOPLE ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN AND BRTA FOLKS ARE NO EXCEPTION

The offering of a Nashville trip has been very successful. There is still some room but not much. Most of our trips are through Collette Travel who have proven to be most accommodating to our travelers. Total refunds are paid up to but not including the day of travel for any or no given reason, if insurance is taken. All reservations are accommodated for a single traveler or a group will be joined with another group so the traveler can go. Seldom is there a cancellation on Collette's end.

The San Antonio trip is December 1, 2022 with much to see. If interested, room is still available.

Here is a listing of trips going out. Some are still in the planning stage as much of today's goings on are chaotic.

Northern Italy	May 3--11, 2023	French Riviera	May, 2024
Greek Islands	September, 2023	New Orleans	November 5--9, 2023
Ireland	April, 2024		

Hope to see you on many or all of these excursions. We seem to always have a good time--especially when wine follows.

--Al Marabella (716-635-9530)

You Are Cordially Invited to a
Celebration of Life

In honor of

Edith (Eddie) LeWin

Saturday, September 24, 2022

11:00 AM to 2:00PM

Lake Erie Italian Club
3200 South Park Ave.
Lackawanna, NY 14218

Light refreshments will be served

Edie began teaching in Buffalo at School #3 in 1959. As a result of a grievance, she quickly became involved in the BTF. In the early 70's, she accepted the position of Presidential Assistant. Edie served in this position working for, and helping hundreds of teachers until her retirement in 2017. You will see some of her involvement over the years, when you join us.

In her private life, Edie was involved in her church, First Trinity Lutheran Church on Niagara Falls Boulevard. She worked to support the Church's Mission Projects, like one in Haiti.

Therefore, **memorial contributions** can be made, in Edie's name, payable to **First Trinity Lutheran Church**. In the **memo** line, please write "Mission Work." Contributions will be gratefully accepted at the Memorial on September 24th.

LOOKING FOR A NEW EXERCISE OPTION?

ZUMBA GOLD is a low impact, easy to follow dance fitness workout.

It is perfect for beginners, older adults, or those who need to modify aerobic exercise. Zumba Gold with Jaime Fanara, a licensed Zumba Gold Instructor, is held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM at St. George's Church, 2 Nottingham Terrace (at Amherst St.). The cost is \$5.00 per class or \$50.00 for a 10 class punch card. I am now accepting Blue Cross and Independent Health Debit Cards. Call or Text Jaime Fanara at 716-574-9303 for more information.

TERRY HILLS GOLF OUTING

Once again, the BRTA Golf Outing held at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia was a complete success. The highlight of this year's event was a Hole-in-One on the par 3 number 3 hole by Andrea Abels, from 103 yards, Andrea was awarded two golf passes to return to Terry Hills.

Other winners included Marty Gregory with a low score of 80 from the gold tees and Mark Pitirri with a low score of 79 from the white tees. The men's scramble was won by the team of Tom Gattie, Jerry reeves, Jim Martino and Pat Martino with a score of 69. the women's scramble was won by the of team of Geri Neff, Mary Scheeler, Andrea Abels and Mark Abels , scoring 70.

Closest to the pin on a par three was won by Don Smyton for the men and, of course, Andrea Abels for women. The par 4 second shot closest to the pin was won by Nigel Bond.

In total, we had 68 golfers on a beautiful, warm, sunny day. The day ended with a steak dinner in the outdoor pavilion and everyone went home happy with hopes of returning next year!

--Steve Parada

HAS THE PANDEMIC ENDED?

It has been two and a half years since the Covid-19 pandemic began. After nearly two years of lockdown, we could finally relax from the restrictions of social distancing, N-19 mask wearing and avoiding large gatherings with family and friends. Weddings, birthdays, holiday events and church services can now operate normally.

But, recently, CNN announced that the most infectious and transmissible variant of Covid-19 has arrived. The latest version of the omicron subvariant--shape shifting BA-5 variant--is fueling a global surge. It has been found that this variant can evade immunity which was previously provided by Covid-19 vaccines. According to the CDC, this variant has accounted for 65% pf new infections in the US (as of July 7,2022). Even In Portugal, the most highly vaccinated and boosted country in the world, a major surge has been noted. The advisor panel of the FDA has directed vaccine manufacturers to include protection against BA.4 and BA.5 in new vaccines to be released in the fall. In the meantime, Americans, aged 50 and older are encouraged to get vaccinated, boosted and the second booster as soon as possible. It is also recommended that people wash their hands frequently, consider wearing a mask in public indoor facilities, get tested after airplane, bus or train travel, quarantine when feeling sick, and continue to social distance. (sources: CNN Thursday, 7/14/2022, Alexandra Meeks and Health and Wellness Publication, 6/17/2022 Sarah Jacoby) ---Cynthia Mehary

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

invites members and guests to attend
BRTA Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting

To take place at

The Millennium Hotel of Buffalo
2040 Walden Avenue Phone: 681-2400

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Social Hour: 11:15 am Complimentary Cheese Trays, Fruit Punch & Cash Bar

Luncheon: 12:15 pm Choice of:

1. Filet of Sirloin served atop Onion Grass with Béarnaise Sauce

2. Herb-crusted Salmon with spicy Horseradish Sauce

3. Chicken Marsala--tender chicken cutlet in marsala wine mushroom sauce, served with Fettuccine noodles

4. Oriental Vegetable Stir-fry with Egg Fried Rice (vegetarian)

Meals include Salad, Rolls, Potato (choice 1 or 2), Vegetable, Dessert & Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$30.00 for Members \$35.00 for Non-Members

(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

Payable to: Check made out to Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Mary Agnes Marabella, 2 Steinway Ct., Williamsville, NY 14221 (716-635-9530)

Note: No cash refunds will be given after the reservation deadline.

(Detach and mail lower portion only. Keep upper portion as your reminder)

Please list your name and the names of all other persons included in the enclosed payment

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

_____ Meal Choice (Number) _____

Name _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

Meal Choice (Number) _____

Name _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

Meal Choice (Number) _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____ (If needed, list additional guests on additional sheet)