



# BRTA NEWSLETTER

[www.brta.biz](http://www.brta.biz)

[brtamembership@yahoo.com](mailto: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, 2023

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 6, 2023--Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting** at Hotel M. Information on page 6.

**Dec. 7, 2023--Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's.** Information in next newsletter.

## To Be Scheduled

Feb., 2024--Winter Luncheon

May, 2024--Spring Luncheon

June, 2024--Don Guerra Golf Tourney

Sept., 2024--Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather. However, the smoke from the Canadian wildfires has been a cause for alarm. It has limited what people can do on the days when the air has been rated as unhealthy. That is one import from Canada that we do not need!

It was so nice to see so many of you at the spring luncheon at the Columns in Elma. We received many positive comments about the luncheon and the facility. A number of people commented about the nice view we had from the room. I have attended a number of Western Zone of RENY meetings there over the past few years. The food and service have always been good. Thanks to all who purchased split club tickets. The money raised will be added to the scholarship fund. Each year we will award scholarships to three students graduating from Buffalo Public Schools.

BRTA has had to raise the price for luncheons to \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The total costs for the luncheons have increased dramatically over the past few years. The restaurants have not only raised the cost of the entrees, but have also raised what they charge us for administration fees. Also, some of the facilities charge for use of the room. The Board of Directors held off this action for as long as it could.

The next luncheon is at the Hotel M, formerly the Millennium Hotel, on September 6th. More information and the reservation form can be found in this newsletter. After lunch, we will hold our annual meeting. This year, we have an election of officers and Board members. Please see the report in this newsletter. I need to thank Arnie Harting, the election chair, for all his work on this.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Phil Rumore for all his dedicated service to teachers as the President of the BTF. BRTA wishes

Continued on page 3

Benefits Available to  
BRTA Members

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

**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](http://www.vitalsavings.com)

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

**Faculty Rewards**—Discount magazine subscriptions. Go to [www.facultyrewards.com](http://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](http://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](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)

*IN MEMORIAM*

Robert Agthe	Joseph C. Girard
Albert Beimiller	Donna A. Gubala
Margaret Bennett	Russell Link
Kristin Borowiak	Edward Myska
Francis Brady	Carol Northup
Anthony Catalfamo	Deborah Smith
Joseph Ciminelli	Reba Thomas
Carol Ann Colucci	Earl Tomkins
Janet Cowles	Millicent U. Tonner
Anna DeVarney	Lucian P. Visone
Barbara Flowers	Louise Harrison White
Margaret (Meg) Foster	John Williams

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!!**

Bob and Ellie Grabowski--52 years  
Ronald and Maryann Gramza--50 years  
James and Ann Grucella--50 years  
Chuck and Sharon Lomison--50 years  
Brian and Charlotte Moore--50 years  
William and Yolanda Roberts--50 years

Frequently Requested Numbers

Website: [www.brta.biz](http://www.brta.biz) Email: [brtamembership@yahoo.com](mailto:brtamembership@yahoo.com)

*President:* Thomas Giambra 716-877-7796

*Membership:* Linda Parada—716-875-3392

*Luncheons*

*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)

Wishes him all the best in his retirement. As retired teachers, we benefit from health insurance that he negotiated during his tenure. Many of the items he fought for not only benefited teachers, but also the students. During his many years as President of the BTF, he fought to make things better for teachers. Of course, he faced major opposition from many fronts. However, he never stopped fighting for what he believed.

As I have said many times, this is not a one-person operation. Many of the Board of Directors have been taking an active part for many years. I have been active on the Board since 2006; there are a number of members who have been serving longer than I. If you are interested in getting involved, let us know. Simply send a text to [brtamembership@yahoo.com](mailto:brtamembership@yahoo.com) and someone will contact you.

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

---Thomas Giambra

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE**

Interested in gaining or sharing your knowledge? Along with giving our visitors the most enjoyable experience, it is our wish to excite as well as give our volunteers an opportunity to learn something new every time they are here volunteering. Then the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tiff Nature Preserve are for you. These opportunities range in nature programming at Tiff Nature Preserve to working behind-the-scenes to engaging the public at the Buffalo Science Museum. Contact Kathy at 716-896-5200 x 309 or email [Kdaiglersantana@SCIENCEBUFF.ORG](mailto:Kdaiglersantana@SCIENCEBUFF.ORG)

### **THE AKG ART MUSEUM**

is looking for volunteers. Opportunities are varied and hours are flexible. To learn more, call 716-882-8700 or go to [infobuffaloakg.org](http://infobuffaloakg.org)

## FLORIDA COTTAGE FOR RENT

Perfect Florida vacation getaway, half the price of any comparable monthly cottage or hotel in coastal Florida! This special pricing is only available to Buffalo retired teachers.

All new construction. This is a small country cottage, single or couple occupancy only. One bedroom with queen bed, one full bath, full kitchen, laundry facilities available, Wi-Fi and cable included. The cottage is a non-smoking facility.

The cottage is available for year round booking. It is located in Coastal Florida, 5 miles to beautiful beaches. There is access to theme parks, Space Center, and excellent dining. Just bring bathing suit and beach towels!

To view photos and rental information, go to

**[www.coastalfloridacottage.com](http://www.coastalfloridacottage.com)**

Contact **[BeachGator@outlook.com](mailto:BeachGator@outlook.com)** with questions, open dates and prices.

--PAID ADVERTISEMENT--

## BRTA ANNUAL MEMBERS--YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP FOR RENEWAL

If you need to renew your annual membership in BRTA, you have, hopefully, mailed in your renewal form which was sent last month. This will ensure that no mailings, especially for the holiday activities, are missed. If you have misplaced it, or need another form, please contact Linda Parada at 716-875-3392.

## BRTA Travel--

Have you been somewhere that you enjoyed and think others would like it? Is there someplace that you would like you to visit? BRTA travel welcomes ideas for trips. Please contact Russ Gervasi at 716-839-5781.

## **FROM THE BRTA ELECTION COMMITTEE...UNCONTESTED ELECTION**

As of the nomination deadline of July 17, 2023, the following nominees for 2023-2025 Offices accepted and were uncontested. As a result, an election at the September luncheon will not be necessary. In accordance with the BRTA Constitution, Articles XI and XII, the following will assume their uncontested positions. Attending BRTA members will be asked to ratify and install the following as the 2023-2025 officers:

**President: Thomas Giambra**

**1st Vice President: Russell Gervasi**

**2nd Vice President: Renate Yuhnke**

**Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke**

**Recording Secretary: Stephen Parada**

**Corresponding Secretary: Elisa Harting**

**Membership Secretary: Linda Parada**

**At-Large: Josephine Cross, Arnold Harting, Michael Marszalek**

**--Arnold Harting**

**Election Chairman**

## **YOUR HEALTH--AGE RELATED EYE PROBLEMS**

You've always loved to read, but lately you must use extra-large-print books. Sometimes, the sun seems extremely bright or on-coming headlights make it difficult for you to focus. You make an appointment with your eye doctor for a complete eye exam to check for age-related eye disorders.

The two most common eye disorders in aging adults are cataracts and glaucoma. CATARACTS are cloudy areas in the lens in front of the eye. If they become large or too thick, they can be surgically removed and replaced with a clear plastic lens. This will usually restore normal vision.

GLAUCOMA is caused by increased pressure inside the eye. There are usually no early symptoms or pain. Your doctor will assess your optic nerve, eye pressure and test your visual field.

The key thing is to see your eye doctor regularly for exams and to take precautions if you have diabetes or have a family history of eye disease.

REFERENCES and sources from on-line internet: "Cleveland Clinic Newsletter", "Common Age-related Eye Problems," "Get Useful, Helpful and Relevant Health + Wellness Information".

Edited and Revised by Cynthia Mehary

# Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

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

To take place at

**Hotel M** (formerly the Millennium Hotel of Buffalo)  
2040 Walden Avenue Phone: 681-2400

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

Social Hour: 11:15 am Complimentary Cheese Trays, Fruit Punch & Cash Bar  
Luncheon: 12:15 pm Choice of:

1. Sliced marinated sirloin flat iron steak with cabernet demi-glaze
2. Bruschetta Tilapia pan-seared with tomato bruschetta and balsamic glaze
3. Panko Chicken Milanese with arugula, tomato, goat cheese and lemon vinaigrette
4. Vegetarian Tri-color Tortellini Pomodoro

Meals include Salad, Rolls, Potato (choice 1,2,3), Vegetable, Dessert & Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$35.00 for Members (BRTA subsidizes cost for members) \$40.00 for Non-Members

Payment: **Due by Friday, August 25, 2023**

Payable to: Check made out to Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Elisa Harting, 344 Parker Ave. , Buffalo, NY14216 (716-838-3708)

**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)**