



# 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,  
Sara Rodland, Dolores Scanlon, Guy Schiavi,  
Mary Boblak, Ann Peters

Fall Edition

August, 2024

## **Upcoming Events**

### **September 4, 2024**

Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Classics V. Information on page

### **December 5, 2024**

Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's. Information in fall newsletter

## **REMINDER**

Annual membership renewals were mailed to annual members. If you haven't returned your renewal, please do so by September 1.

## **President's Message**

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the summer. It certainly has been a hot and humid one to this point. I am not a big fan of this type of weather; I realize that I might be in the minority on this issue.

It was nice to see all of you who attended the spring luncheon at the Columns in May. I hope that you enjoyed the atmosphere, the food and the chance to connect with friends the Columns does a very nice job running the banquets. The service is very good and so is the food! I want to thank you for your generosity in supporting the sale of split club tickets. The money raised will be used for the scholarships that BRTA awards each year to students who attend Buffalo Public Schools.

The next luncheon will be held on September 4th at the Classics V on Niagara Falls Blvd. in Amherst. It is also our annual meeting. Any new retirees will be recognized at this luncheon. Also various reports will be given. This is the first time in many years that we will be holding the fall luncheon at this banquet facility. The management has been very easy to work with. I am sure everything will work out well.

--Continued on page 3

## News briefs

**NYSUT Member Benefits:** All retired Buffalo teachers are members of NYSUT and, as such, are eligible to use the benefits. Go to [member-benefits.nysut.org](http://member-benefits.nysut.org). Please contact Sara Rodland (sarasarasara2008@live.com), president of NYSUT Retiree Council #44, with any questions you may have in regard to your membership

## IN MEMORIAM

*Noreen Mary Buckley*

*Peter Reister*

*Lynn A. Malek*

*Robert (Bob) Rice*

*David Malfese*

*Rose Marie Sapienza*

*Helen Martini*

*Fern Suckow*

*Theresa Pope*

*Paul 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**

Donald and Sharon Bradley--50 year

Joseph and Lori Mascia--55 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:* Elisa Harting 716-838-3708

*Travel:* 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)

Two longtime members of the Board of Directors of BRTA, Theresa Pope and Peter Reister, passed away recently. Both served on the Board for many years. They were both hard working and dedicated individuals and such pleasures to work with. Both Theresa and Peter also worked on the Board of Directors of the Western Zone of RENY. In addition, Theresa also served as a President of Buffalo Retired Administrators.

In June, BRTA held its annual golf outing at Terry Hills in Batavia. I need to thank Steve Parada for organizing this activity for us.

Hopefully, you saved the article in the January newsletter about the benefits that you are eligible to enjoy as a member of other organizations. For example, NYSUT, the state organization, has many benefits for which you can apply. Other organizations were mentioned as well. One organization which was not mentioned was RENY. If you are a member of that organization, it offers many benefits for its members.

I hope to see many of you at the fall luncheon. Until then, take care and stay well!

----Tom Giambra

**VACATION OPPORTUNITY**

Perfect Florida vacation getaway. Small country cottage located in a quaint town on the East Coast of Central Florida. Book your 2025 vacation now.

New construction. Max occupancy: 2 (single person or couple.) 1 bedroom with queen bed, 1 full bathroom, full kitchen, living area. Private outdoor back patio area for sunning. Laundry facilities available. Wifi, and cable included. Cottage is smoke free and Pet free.

5 miles away from a 17 mile long accessible beach. Easy access to all the popular Theme Parks, the Space Center and excellent local dining. Just bring bathing suit and beach towels.

Rental is by the month for 4 weeks.

To view photos and rental information, go to [www.coastalfloridacottage.com](http://www.coastalfloridacottage.com)

Contact [BeachyGator@outlook.com](mailto:BeachyGator@outlook.com) with questions, and information about open dates and prices.

(paid ad)

## BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Forty-eight hearty souls braved the chilly temperatures on June 11th to finish 18 holes of golf at Terry Hills in Batavia. Chairman Steve Parada could “literally” feel and hear his joints “creaking” as he swung his golf club. However, the old guy was one of many who enjoyed the outing.

Marty Gregory has the lowest stroke score with 77, followed closely by Mike Ferrentino. Those who chose to play best ball team scramble were outpaced by the men’s team of John Logel, Bill DeMartinis, Mike Rende, and Ron Mastroilli.

They carded a two under par 70. The women were represented by the team of Gerry Neff, Andrea Abels and Mary Scheeler. Their best ball team carded a 77. Gift cards were awarded to all team members of both teams.

A closest to the pin contest was held on the Par 3 third hole with Marty Gregory winning the men’s contest’ There was no woman signed in on the score sheet’

Closest to the pin on the second shot was played on the Par 4 eighth hole. Andrea Ables won the women’s contest and Mike Ferrentino won the men’s. Winners of all events were awarded gift cards to various companies including Home Depot, Lowe’s, Cheesecake Factory, Texas Roadhouse and Tim Horton’s.

Next year’s tournament on the second Tuesday in June is hoping for a little warmer day, but will endure no matter what happens. -----Steve Parada

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The awardees of the 2024 BRTA scholarships are:

**Zigabor Banuna**, senior at Hutch Tech, hopes to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business management. His dream is to design and create his own automobile.

**Keaira Burt**, senior at Frederick Law Olmstead, plans to major in education, become a teacher and work with less motivated students who lack the same support as other students.

**Luca Falcone**, senior at Frederick Law Olmstead, winner of the Josephine Slacer award for his community service. He plans a career in cybersecurity aiming to offer classes in digital safety.

---Clarann Josef, chairperson

## Remembering Theresa Pope

Those of us who knew Theresa Pope knew her as an administrator, teacher and a master advocate of education. Her history in Buffalo education extended into her retirement . She was a longtime member of BRTA where she served as the public relations person, as well as a long time member of Western Zone, Retired Educators of New York where she served on the resolution committee. She worked with the League of Women Voters and was a member of the Buffalo Retired Administrators Association where she served as leader of the planning committee. Most of our members know her as the “lady with the camera” at luncheons, where her work is published on the BRTA website. But she was also a part of the first class of black students to integrate the Somerset High School in her hometown of Somerset, Kentucky. Michea Lynne Pope, her daughter, wrote, “She was more than the daughter of Theresa and Ernest, she was the personification of years of educational drive from segregations roots to the brave new world of educations that included all children from a variety of backgrounds.”

Theresa was devoted to education from her roots in Kentucky , through her education at Kentucky State College, now University of Kentucky in Frankfort to her years of teaching in Buffalo Public Schools. She may have been tiny in stature, but Theresa Ernestine Pope was a giant in education.

(Thanks to her daughter for the beautiful glimpse into Theresa’s life.)

---Elisa Harting

# BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Cordially invites Members and Guests to attend the

## BRTA Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting

To be held at

### Classics V

2425 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Amherst, NY 14228

(716-691-6000)

**On Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

**Social Hour:** 11:15 AM Complimentary Fruit Punch , Cheese, Fruit and Cash Bar

**Luncheon:** 12:15 PM Choice of:

1. Strip Steak
2. Chicken Francaise--battered chicken breast with a light lemon sauce
3. Salmon with a brown sugar glaze
4. Vegetable Capellini--angel hair pasta with artichokes and assorted vegetables with a light garlic sauce

Luncheon includes salad, rolls and butter, potato, vegetable, ice cream , coffee and/or tea

**Cost:** \$40.00 for members--\$45.00 for non-member guests

(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

**Payment:** due by **WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2024**

**Payable to:** Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

**Mail to:** Elisa Harting, 344 Parker Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 (716-838-3708)

**N.B. NO CASH REFUNDS GIVEN AFTER RESERVATION DEADLINE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ BRTA member Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Meal Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ BRTA member Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Meal Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ BRTA member Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Meal Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ BRTA member Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Meal Choice \_\_\_\_\_