



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.brta.biz

brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Charles Peszynski

Recording Sec.: Dolores Scanlon

1st VP: Thomas Giambra

Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting

2nd VP: JoAnn Meyer

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Stephen Parada

Immediate Past Pres: Al Marabella

At Large: Floyd Kruschke, Michael Marszalek, Loretta Peszynski

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Josephine Cross, Russell Gervasi, Clarann Josef, Cynthia Mehary, Sue Nyitrai, Theresa Pope, Peter Riester

Winter Edition

October, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1, 2016—
Holiday Luncheon at
Salvatore's Italian
Gardens. Information
on page 8

February, 2017—
Winter Luncheon.
Information in next
newsletter

March 16-24, 2017—
Discover Panama

May, 2017—Spring
Luncheon

July 9-14, 2017—
Montreal, Quebec and
Ottawa. Information on
page 6

July 14-22, 2017—The
Colorado Rockies.
Information included in
this mailing

**September 22-29,
2017**—Tuscany and
the Italian Rivera.
Information on brta.biz

President's Message

Even though it is only early November, our next newsletter will not come out until mid-January so I thought this might be a good time to reflect on the upcoming holiday season. On November 24th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day, an occasion on which we traditionally gather with family and friends to share a sumptuous meal and remember the many blessings we have received even if the road of life has sometimes been rough. Native Americans as well as African Americans have suffered much in our history yet they maintain a positive outlook as evidenced by this Thanksgiving blessing from native peoples of the Southwest:

Great Father, Send us your breath
over the lakes, hills and prairies,
that our world may be beautiful and
fertile, and our people strong.
We thank you, Great Father, for the
blessing of this food, and for the
friends who share it with us, both
those around this table and those
with us in spirit.
Amen

But even before we get to Thanksgiving, stores will be setting up Christmas displays and newspapers, radio and television will be advertising special sales of the "perfect" Christmas gift or gifts. What a shame that in this commercialization of this important holiday, there is little or no attention paid to its true significance. Perhaps some may feel that the phrase "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men" is an unachievable goal since we are constantly bombarded with news of war, terrorism and turmoil in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and our own nation. That can be disheartening but the messages of Christmas, Hannukah and Kwanzaa offer hope that, with perseverance and faith, good will eventually triumph over evil and the human race can better itself with determined effort.

(continued on page 3)

Benefits Available to
BRTA Members

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

Eyewear Discount

Eyewear Unlimited: 716-834-3511
Niagara Labmasters, Inc.
Niagara Falls, NY 716-297-9115
Gary Optical
Lewiston, NY 716-754-255
Boulevard Optical
Tonawanda, NY 716-694-4388

Tires and Service

Discounts at Dunn Tire

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 Ambrose Price at 885-5001 for
discount tickets

IN MEMORIAM

**Cynthia A. Brown
Pat Evans
Luann Joy-Woods
Edward Kane
Marilyn Lewis
Ruth G. Long
Jean Monson Murphy
John Pazder
Ursula C. Schifferle
Patrick Starkey
Everett Williams**

BRTA would like to acknowledge the passing of those teachers 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).

**BRTA ANNUAL MEMBERS—YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP
FOR RENEWAL**

If you need to renew your annual membership in BRTA, hopefully, you have mailed in the renewal form which was sent to you several months ago. This will ensure that no mailings are missed.

Remember that you can also refer new members to our membership chairperson.

If you have misplaced your registration form or need one for another retired teacher, please contact Linda Parada at 875-3392.

Frequently Requested Numbers

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

President: Charles Peszynski—631-3717

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Loretta Peszynski—631-3717

Travel: Al Marabella—635-9530, Russ Gervasi—839-5781

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—636-3014

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Christmas offers the hope that the newborn and those yet to be born will bring peace and harmony to the world. Hanukah reminds us that miracles are possible just as the menorah in the temple in Jerusalem stayed lit for eight days with only one day's supply of oil. And Kwanzaa teaches us all that, by taking pride in our heritage, we can be the masters of our destiny.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving and one or more of the other holidays of the season, I hope you can do so with joy and love in the company of family and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Joyous Kwanzaa and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

—Charles Peszynski

BRTA TREASURER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Stephen Parada has announced that he would like to give up the job as Treasurer with the upcoming election in September of 2017. Steve has been treasurer since 2004, a total of twelve years of faithful service. He and his wife, Linda, are yearly snowbirds now and spend January and February in Florida. He would like to enjoy Florida without being concerned with the financial matters of BRTA.

If any BRTA member is interested in taking over, Steve would be happy to show you what needs to be done. Most of the time, it is writing checks and balancing the accounts. If interested, please contact any Board member or call Steve directly at 472-0277.

Annual Holiday Luncheon to Be Held at Salvatore's

The holiday season will be upon us very soon and BRTA will be kicking off the season with our annual Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Gardens on December 1, 2016. For many of our members, this is one of the highlights of the season especially because of the festive atmosphere and decorations featured at Salvatore's. This year will be no exception. Once again we will be entertained by the Hutch Tech Jazz Band and there will be wine and poinsettia prizes and funds collected by split club and voluntary contributions will be donated to local charities designated by the BRTA Board of Directors. A reservation form may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to send in your reservation by the deadline date.

The Board of Directors decided to keep the cost of this luncheon at \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members despite the fact that food and beverage costs are up slightly, and Salvatore's now has added a room-use charge to the bill. However, it may be necessary to increase the price a bit for luncheons in the future. Please be assured, though, that we will make every effort to select locations and menus that will enable us to keep the price of BRTA luncheons as low as possible for all of our members.

Travel Update

The September trip to Poland was ranked by those who traveled as one of the most enjoyable and memorable. Polish people are the most welcoming in all of Europe to American travelers.

On to current offerings. This coming September, we are offering an excursion to Tuscany and the Italian Riviera. Reservations are brisk and we number near 40 already. If you are interested in this trip, early registration is suggested. Info about the holiday can be found on line at brta.biz, along with applications.

We are also offering a trip to the Colorado Rockies with historic train trips through National Parks. See wildlife in their natural environment & canyons & arches and, and, and during the 9 days of travel, finishing at Pike's Peak. It's amazing to see what God hath wrought.

For those who wish to stay closer to home, travel by bus to Montreal and Quebec is planned in July. This is a 6 day trip. Besides basilicas and shrines, this trip offers some of the best French style cooking I've ever had anywhere. If one goes and pear pie is offered for dessert, don't refuse. It's one of a kind.

Cuba is still in the works with nothing firm yet. But it will happen in the fall.

Al Marabella

635-9530

CARLY'S CLUB

Carly's Club was started by 8-year-old Carly Cottone to help fellow pediatric cancer patients at Roswell Park. Funds raised are used for both pediatric cancer research and to provide for the needs of the children.

One of the yearly fund raising events is Carly's Crossing. This challenge was an open water swim held during the Beach Bash at Sunset Bay on August 7. The event, related raffles, and baskets raised over \$55,000 for pediatric cancer research.

Floyd Kruschke, a BRTA member and board member participated in his sixth challenge this year. He and his donor group, (many who are BRTA members) were honored as one of the highest donor groups to Carly's Crossing this year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes are extended to the following couples who have celebrated milestone anniversaries:

Charles and Josephine Palmieri—50th Anniversary

Kenneth and Eloise Parr—50th Anniversary

Leonard and Agnes Testa—60th Anniversary

WINTER HEALTH NEWS

I would like to begin by addressing our retirees who do not have a computer and Internet access. I feel that this is actually a health matter. Not having this access is similar to people who did not have a home phone in the early 20th century and did not feel they needed it. Can you imagine being without a phone today? For less than \$500, you can get a decent computer and printer and there are always ads for Internet connections for less than \$40 a month. The libraries also all have computers available for use free of charge. In fact, the Internet is my resource for almost every article I have written for this newsletter. For access to health and other services, it is the most efficient means as well as communicating with the world. All of the information listed below was found on the Internet. There is a plethora of information and services available just for seniors in Erie County.

An excellent web site for information is the Erie County NY Senior Services (www2.erie.gov). Just by clicking on topics on the site you have instant access to multiple services. Here is just a sampling:

Age Friendly Erie County—AFEC is a collaborative initiative of local organizations in Western New York committed to creating a vibrant, inclusive community for residents to grow up and grow old. The initiative is facilitated by the Erie County Department of Senior Services, Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access at the University of Buffalo, and AARP. The goal of Age Friendly Communities Erie County Initiative is to connect the numerous local efforts already contributing to an improved quality of life for the aging population of Erie County residents throughout their lifespans.

Get Involved!

Do you have 10 minutes? Complete the [Resident Survey](#) to help us learn about priority issues in our community. **Do you have 30 minutes?** Complete the [Access to Information Survey](#) to share more in-depth information about the things that influence health and quality of life in Erie County. Join the [AFEC Network of Community Partners](#) to become more connected with others committed to creating a vibrant, inclusive community for residents to grow up and grow old.

Resident Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for all Erie County Residents aged 55 and older— Help others by sharing your experience, abilities and skills—join the team of senior volunteers making a difference in Erie County by contacting us at (716) 858-7548. The benefits of being an RSVP volunteer include: an opportunity to try new things and meet new people, the satisfaction of knowing you are needed and appreciated, volunteer recognition, travel reimbursement (mileage, bus, rapid transit), and supplemental accident and liability insurance. Some of the things RSVP volunteers do include: bringing donated food from restaurants and stores to soup kitchens, etc. to alleviate hunger, helping children learn to read and improve math skills, showing people how to observe nature and ask questions by acting as guides and docents at nature preserves, the zoo or various museums, making friendly phone calls to alleviate loneliness, driving vans to transport elderly and disabled persons to places they need to go and many other services.

(continued on page 7)

BRTA
Invites Members & Guests to travel to
Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa
July 9—14, 2017

Departing from St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 S. Gregory Ct, 14221

@ 8:00 am.

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights lodging
- 10 Meals (5 Dinners & 5 Breakfasts)
- Guided Tours of Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa
- Montreal's Underground City
- Ottawa's Parliament Hill
- Narrated Cruise on the St. Lawrence River
- Visit to Atlantic Casino
- More Information can be found @ brta.biz

Cost: \$679.00 per person Double occupancy

Deposit of \$75.00 is due by February 1, 2017 Final payment is due by May 2, 2017.

Please detach and mail this form. Keep the top for your records.

Please reserve _____ places for me on the Montreal Quebec Trip

Name _____ Phone _____

Street & Number _____ City & Zip _____

e-mail address: _____

Roommate _____ Phone _____

Street & Number _____ City & Zip _____

e-mail address: _____

My deposit/payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to Buffalo Retired Teachers Assn.
and Mail to: Al Marabella, 2 Steinway Ct., Buffalo, NY 14221

Health News (continued from page 5)

There are so many ways to volunteer within one or more of our over 90 partner sites. RSVP volunteers serve in the Buffalo Public Schools, as tour guides at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park, serving up a hot meal at the Matt Urban Hope Center and so much more. You've gained a lifetime of experience. Now is the time to put your talents to good use by volunteering through Erie County's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program—RSVP. Orientations cover RSVP's history and mission, volunteer policies, procedures, and opportunities, and volunteer benefits.

And University Express Classes—are free one hour courses in a variety of topics such as current events, history and science. Classes are designed to provide older adults with opportunities for intellectual stimulation, learning and discussion in accessible settings. No homework or tests, just exciting discussions on academic topics alongside peers with similar interests. Host sites include the Amherst Senior Center, Baptist Manor, Canterbury Woods, Cheektowaga Senior Center, Clarence Senior center, Grand Island Golden Age Center, Hamburg Senior Community Center, Ken-Ton Presbyterian Village, Orchard Park Senior Center, Springville Concord Elder Network, Town of Tonawanda Senior Center, and Wegmans Cooking School. Here are several examples of classes:

Abandoned Orphanages in New York State— By the mid-nineteenth century, 30,000 orphaned and homeless children roamed New York City. They survived by resorting to petty crime and selling newspapers while sleeping in alleys. For protection, they joined violent gangs such as the Bowery Boys. In response to this crisis, orphan asylums were started. Hear the story of New York State Orphanages including Father Baker's orphanage in Buffalo. Instructor: Michael Keene, author and enthusiast of 19th century Western New York history. Monday, November 7 Baptist Manor, 819-1820 (to register), 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, Amherst Senior Center, 636-3055, ext. 3108 (to register), 1 p.m.

Black Gospel Music, Yesterday and Today—Black gospel music was first popularized in the 1930s when Thomas Dorsey, the son of a Baptist preacher, combined shouts of praise and emotional fervor with a contemporary style. We'll explore the roots of black gospel music and help others to develop an appreciation for its beauty and historical significance. Instructor: Deacon Donald Bradley, retired insurance underwriter; enthusiast of gospel music and history. Monday, November 7, Amherst Senior Center, 636-3055 ex. 3108 (to register), 1 p.m.

Staying active, staying involved and intellectually stimulated have been shown with numerous studies to help maintain health and the quality of our lives as seniors. From respite for caretakers to transportation to doctors' offices, income tax preparation services and volunteer opportunities...the information is literally at your fingertips using websites on the Internet.

Be well,

Jo Ann Meyer

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Cordially Invites Members & Guests to attend its

BRTA Holiday Luncheon

To be held at

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

6461 Transit Road

Depew, NY

716-683-7990

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Social Hour: 11:15 AM Complimentary Fruit Punch & Cash Bar
Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:
1. Prime Rib w/au jus
2. Poached Salmon w/lobster dill sauce
3. Chicken Milanese w/tomatoes, red onion & shaved asiago
4. Roasted Vegetables w/ a Mediterranean orzo
Luncheon includes Salad, Vegetable, Dessert and Beverage

Cost: \$25.00 for Members - \$30.00 for Non-member Guests
(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Loretta Peszynski (631-3717)
149 Scamridge Curve
Williamsville, NY 14221-5212

N.B. No cash refunds given after 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 \$ _____