



# 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

Winter Edition

November, 2021

## Upcoming Events

December 2, 2021--

Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Gardens  
Information on page 4

Winter Luncheon--TBA

Spring Luncheon--TBA



## President's Message

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall season. As I write this, the temperatures have been much warmer than usual at this time of year. I wish we could have some of this for January and February!

It was so nice that so many were able to attend the fall luncheon and annual meeting. It had really been a long time since we were able to be together. I hope that everyone enjoyed the location and the opportunity to reconnect with friends. Thank you so much for your generous support of the split club. The money raised will be used to benefit the BRTA Scholarship Fund. As Clarann Josef reported at the luncheon, BRTA will be giving out three scholarships this school year.

I have recently talked to Joseph Montante, Presidential Assistant of the BTF, about grievance filed over changed the Board made to the prescription drug program for retired teachers. This took place a few years ago. They moved retired teachers to Medicare Part D. The Board did this without negotiating with the BTF. Previously the Board had operated the prescription program under the management of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Montante told me that the grievance is finally in the hands of an arbitrator. However, the date of the hearing had not yet been set. However, this is progress. As I mentioned at the time, the grievance process can take time.

Speaking of the BTF, I am sure that many of you know that Edith Lewin passed away in September. Edie was a long time Presidential Assistant of the BTF. As a delegate chairperson at Olmstead #56 for over twenty years, I can not tell how many times I consulted with Edie about situations that arose at

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](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**.

***IN MEMORIAM***

Miriam Aquino	Michael Mulawka, Jr.
Marilyn Brunner	Kim Napierola
Deborah Carbone	Arthur Pepe
Jean Duggan	Marion Raimond
William Farmer	Lynn Rizzo
Arlene Haug	Salvatore SanFilippo
Edith Lewin	Grace Schaefer
Bernice Lyles	Joseph Sheehan
Marilyn Lucera (Klink)	Joyce Spotts
James Marabella	Michael Vacanti
Natalie Masker	Valerie Velarde
	Patricai Wehing

/  
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-

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following on their 50th  
wedding anniversary:

Jim and Sharon Banko

Louis and Elizabeth Giampaola

Bob and Lynn Klein

Daniel and Patricia Metz

Frequently Requested Numbers

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

**President:** Thomas Giambra—877-7796

**Membership:** Linda Parada—875-3392

**Luncheons:** Mary Agnes Marabella—635-9530 **Travel:** Al Marabella—635-9530, Russ Gervasi—839-5781

**Newsletter:** Elisa Harting—838-3708

**Friendly Service:** Josephine Cross—636-3014

## ATTENTION: Retired Teachers

Perfect for the winter getaway! One bedroom with a queen-sized bed, fully furnished, small cottage on coast of Central Florida, 5 miles inland from beach, on a private estate. There is a new kitchen, one bathroom and small living room.

ALL necessities included...just bring your beach towel! Available for the winter season: December 1 to May 28. Minimum rental: one month. [Go to <http://www.floridacoastal.com> for a look at what is waiting for you. Since it is a new domain, you may have to check back after Oct. 31.] Single person or couple preferred. Cost : \$1100.00 per month.

For more information , email [beachygator@outlook.com](mailto:beachygator@outlook.com)

## ELECTION RESULTS

This year's election was uncontested. Each of the following will serve in his/her elected office for next two years:

President: Thomas Giambra

Recording Secretary: Stephen Parada

First Vice-President: Russell Gervasi

Corresponding Secretary: Elisa Harting

Second Vice-President: Renate Yuhnke

Membership Secretary: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke

At Large Delegates: Josephine Cross, Arnold Harting,  
Michael Marszalek

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

school. I always appreciated her advice about how to handle problems that would occur at Olmstead. She was always part of the contract negotiating team. She also served as the chairperson of the Political Action Committee.

A representative of an organization searching for volunteers recently contacted me. The organization is called Hearts and Hands. It provides services for seniors in Buffalo. For example, they provide rides for seniors going to medical appointments or going to a grocery store. They need volunteers to drive seniors. They provide payment for mileage and supplemental insurance. The volunteers can set their own schedule and hours. The information which they sent me did mention that volunteers are subject to a background check. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Angeline Anzalone at (716) 408-8311 or visit [volunteerhnh.org](http://volunteerhnh.org).

BRTA will be setting the dates and locations for the winter and spring luncheons at the October Board meeting. Hopefully, we will have that information for you at the Holiday Luncheon.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you at the December luncheon. It will be another step in the return to normalcy. Until then, take care and stay safe.

---Tom Giambra

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 2, 2021**

Social Hour: 11:15 AM Complimentary Fruit Punch & Cash Bar

Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:

1. 10 oz. boneless Beef Prime Rib w/ au jus

2. Fresh Salmon served with dill sauce

3. Chicken Francais with lemon sauce

4. Stuffed Zucchini with Roasted Vegetables served with rice pilaf

Luncheon includes Salad, Vegetable, Cheesecake with Raspberry

Sauce and Beverage

Cost: \$27.00 for Members - \$32.00 for Non-member Guests

(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Thursday, November 18th**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Mary Agnes Marabella (635-9530)

2 Steinway Court

Williamsville, NY 14221

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**