



# Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association

Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Milford Monroe Shelton Stratford Trumbull

May 2018

## From the President's Podium

*In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years.* Jacques Barzun

**LOBBY DAY HAS COME – AND GONE!** – But the issues stressed to legislators have NOT gone away. Although several of our legislators were not in Hartford on that day, those that did meet with us emphasized the fact that the more they hear from us, the more they respond.

With over 30,000 retired teachers, if a legislator hears from a few, then the message is that the issue isn't particularly important. When legislators hear from dozens, they take notice.

At a recent meeting between some retired teachers and an area legislator, the four-term legislator commented that the retired teachers should do a better job in their negotiations!!!! And just who is our bargaining unit? This demonstrates the misunderstanding of many of our legislators as to how the CT Teacher's Retirement System works and why it is important to belong to the GBRTA and to the ARTC as both organizations work solely for retired teachers.

While we can not bargain as the active teacher organizations do, your dues help to cover the costs related to dealing with the legislators and for a full-time lobbyist to ensure that our issues are not ignored.

Bob Pitzschler

## Send a "Thank You" Note to Bridgeport Teachers

Nearly 40 years ago, in September 1978, when Bridgeport's public school teachers and the Bridgeport Board of Education could not reach a contract settlement, the City's teachers went on strike. The Board made an offer; the teachers rejected it and negotiations were stalled. The Board refused to negotiate.

On September 6th, the first day of school, only 36 of 1,247 teachers were in the classroom. The rest were on the picket line. A permanent injunction against the Bridgeport strike was issued and fines of \$10,000 a day were levied against the union. On September 12th, the first teachers were sent to jail, beginning with the union officers. Thirteen teachers were jailed with the men sent to the New Haven Correctional Center and the women to the women's prison in Niantic. At the jails, they were fingerprinted, strip-searched, and sprayed with a delousing compound.

Eventually whole busloads of teachers would be sent to Camp Hartell, a National Guard camp in Windsor Locks which became a prison camp. More than 50 current GBRTA members were jailed. They remember the common showers, the lack of privacy, the sleep-interrupted nights, and the visits with loved ones through barbed wire fencing. In the 19 days of the strike, 274 teachers were jailed.

On Sept. 22, the union and school board agreed to use binding arbitration to settle the strike. Three days later the union and the board agreed to a two-year contract. The following year the State legislature enacted the landmark *Teacher Negotiation Act*, requiring that deadlocked teacher contract negotiations be solved through binding arbitration.

A commemoration and celebration of their courage and sacrifices will be held on Thursday May 10th, 4:00 pm at Testo's Restaurant, Bridgeport. For additional information please contact Ana Batista at [abatista@bridgeportedu.net](mailto:abatista@bridgeportedu.net) 203-416-0055

## GBRTA Trips

GBRTA has contracted with T & A Travel in scheduling, reserving and paying for trips. To book a trip with T & A, call their toll-free phone number, 1-800-967-1993, and identify yourself as a member of the GBRTA. Shortly before the trip, T & A will mail you written information including departure times.

There are two departure points in the GBRTA area:  
**Fairfield** - Exit 24 off I-95/ Kohl's Store at Tunxis Hill Road & Villa Avenue

**Milford** - Exit 40 off I-95 Commuter Lot/opposite Duchess Restaurant.

Payment should be made to:

T & A Tours  
 72 Northford Road 203-483-6330  
 Branford, CT 06405 www.tatoursonline.com

**Additional information is available at our website, [www.gbarta.org](http://www.gbarta.org)**

**May 26, 2018 N.Y. Botanical Gardens \$99.**

**Georgia O'Keefe: Visions of Hawaii:** Stunning displays of O'Keefe's paintings and a lush flower show evoking the landscapes that inspired the artist. Included are transportation, admission to the Gardens, and free time to enjoy food and shops on Arthur Avenue.

**June 2, 2018 Boston's Gardner Museum \$135.**

Enjoy the collection that includes not just art but also flowers and plants, textiles, furniture, and architecture. Lunch at Maggiano's Restaurant is included. Enjoy free time at Quincy Market.

**July 14, 2018 A Taste of Rhode Island \$145.**

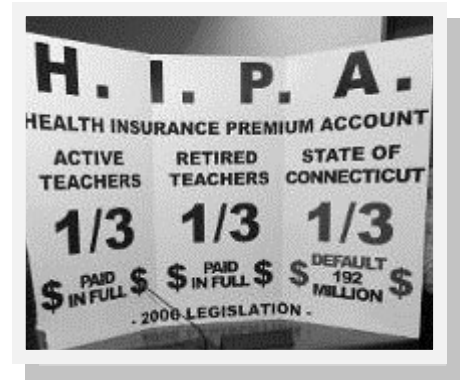
On this progressive lunch tour you will be introduced to several of Providence's favorite restaurants. Travel from restaurant to restaurant aboard the bus. Afterwards board an authentic Venetian gondola to enjoy a ride with singing gondoliers.

**Sept. 9, 2018 CT Day at the Big E \$74.**

Enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of the Big E on your own. Price covers transportation and entrance fees.

## You need to know that:

- In 2006 the Legislature agreed to pay one-third of retiree health insurance costs with retirees and active teachers paying the balance. The State has paid its full share only once since the agreement was made.
- Since 2010, the Legislature has under-funded the Health Insurance Premium Account (HIPA) by \$192 million, with the Account's insolvency projected for the fall of 2018.
- To avoid the projected bankruptcy of the Account, retirees were required to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan or face an increased cost for the current insurance plan.
- The proposed budget for 2018-2019 continues to underfund the Account, despite increasing medical and drug costs and an increase in the number of retired teachers.



### 2017—2018 Officers

<b>President</b>	Bob Pitzschler 203-723-8488 rbpitz@att.net
<b>First Vice-President</b>	RoseMarie D'Aquila 203-261-4693 eaglenest@att.net
<b>Second Vice-President</b>	Barbara Kmetz 203-268-8814 bfkmetz@earthlink.net
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Marilyn Feranec 203-521-2432 marilynferanec@ymail.com
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Rita McDougald-Campbell 203-459-1518 mccamp51@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Helen Scinto 203-375-1921 hscinto@aol.com

### Save the Date

October 7—Brooklyn Neighborhoods	\$124.
October 17—Germanfest in the Poconos	\$129.

### New Members

GBRTA welcomes Cheryl Bochet who retired from Bridgeport; Marie Csom, Fairfield retiree; and Trumbull retirees Elaine Klein, Barbara Napolitano, and Judy Pifko. We're glad to have you with us.

### Changes

**Changed your address, email or phone number?**

**Please report the change to Ann Block, 203-268-1577; annblock93@gmail.com**

### Meeting Dates

#### GBRTA General Meetings

October 4, 2018

November 18, 2018

December 6, 2018

#### GBRTA Board of Directors

May 24, 2018

#### ARTC Spring Lunch

**May 22, 2018**

Toll Free :866-343-2782

#### CEA-R Spring Lunch

**May 10, 2018**

Toll Free: 800-842-4316

***Have you received our email communications? They alert members to issues and actions they should know about—updates to insurance and pensions, for example. You can send your email address to GBRTA.org@gmail.com***

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Annual Dues—\$20**

**Life Membership \$250**

The membership year runs from July 1—June 30. Members whose dues are two or more years in arrears will be dropped from the membership file and must repay two years of back dues for reinstatement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_ School System \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check, payable to GBRTA to

Ann Block 60 Ridgeview Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611

### Please note change in date

**Join Us For Lunch at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport**

**May 17, 2018**

**\$27.00— Choice of**

Roasted Chicken

Baked Ham

Scrod Oreganato

*Deadline for Reservations: May 11*

*Cancellation Deadline : May 13*

Rev. Ciprian Bejan, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church in Shelton, CT will lead the yearly GBRTA Memorial Service to honor members who have departed in the past year. Father Bejan has been at St. Margaret Mary since 2014. Previous to this assignment he was chaplain at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield and served in many parishes throughout southern Fairfield County. Father was ordained a priest in 2000 at the Iasi Major Seminary in his home country of Romania.

The Memorial Service begins at 10:30 with the business meeting to follow. Lunch will be served at approximately 12:00. Members may attend the pre-lunch program without staying for lunch; please call to let us know you are coming.

Make check payable to GBRTA with date, menu choice and your phone number on the check. CHECKS MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS; NO PAYMENT ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR.

**Reservations and payment to: Trudi Black, 487 Church Hill Rd. Trumbull, CT 06611**

**Phone: 203-261-6576**



***In Memoriam***

At the May 17 Memorial Service we will remember the following GBRTA members who have passed on since our 2017 service. *Requiescant in Pace!*

<i>Elliott Rubin</i>	<i>May 14, 2017</i>	<i>Kathryn Higgins</i>	<i>November 6, 2017</i>
<i>Rose Friedman</i>	<i>May 31, 2017</i>	<i>Celestine Bloxon</i>	<i>November 9, 2017</i>
<i>Marcus White</i>	<i>June 6, 2017</i>	<i>Margaret Mulford</i>	<i>November 10, 2017</i>
<i>Dr. C. Dunan Yetman</i>	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	<i>Robert Seirup</i>	<i>December 8, 2017</i>
<i>Sylvia James`</i>	<i>July 21, 2017</i>	<i>Joseph Bonitatebus</i>	<i>December 21, 2017</i>
<i>Bea Steeneck</i>	<i>August 2, 2017</i>	<i>Barbara Surina</i>	<i>December 25, 2017</i>
<i>Karen Maddock</i>	<i>August 8, 2017</i>	<i>Ruth Pensak</i>	<i>January 17, 2018</i>
<i>Edward Roy</i>	<i>September 11, 2017</i>	<i>Helen Hamm</i>	<i>February 3, 2018</i>
<i>Audrey Beres</i>	<i>September 19, 2017</i>	<i>John Lauria</i>	<i>April 20, 2018</i>
<i>Shirley Beresin</i>	<i>September 22, 2017</i>		
<i>Marilyn Badalato</i>	<i>October 8, 2017</i>		