

Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association

MAY 2016

Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Milford Monroe Shelton Stratford Trumbull

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From the President's Podium

A comment on retirement: "The money is no better in retirement but the hours are!" (Author unknown)



Just after Lobby Day, the State Legislative Finance Committee recommended that the tax liability reduction of 50% for retired teacher pay be postponed until 2018 but the 25% reduction scheduled to apply for this year be continued and extended for an additional year. However, this has not been finalized. Check our website, www.gbta.org for updates.

As I look back on my first year in office, I want to thank the officers and committee chairs who keep the organization running smoothly and efficiently. I especially want to recognize Barbara Chuga, Kathy Feller, and Lois Hoyt, who have handled the lunch reservations and trips in an outstanding manner. We are always looking for new volunteers to serve on the committees. Maybe you and a friend would like to take on a job together. The previous chairs are most willing to help and advise.

Finally, I would like to share the following with you as many of our former colleagues begin to consider their own retirement. Some of the references are local to the author's state of Mississippi, but it is easy to fill in with our own local requirements.

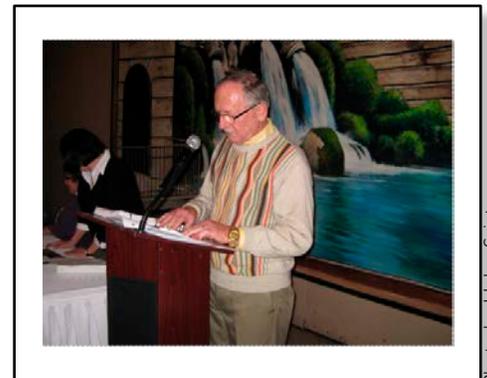
SEEDS YOU'VE SOWN

No bells to alarm, no papers to correct
no parents to charm, nor money to collect,
no mindless repetition, no children left behind,
no scolding admonitions, no young minds to refine,
no discipline forms to fill, no watching out for bullies,
no walking up the hill, no cold morning duties
no uniforms, no calming kindergartners' fears.
From SPED and I.E.P.s to mainstreamed and Tiers-
whatever the "powers that be" contrived –
you put in the hours and somehow survived.
Amidst chasing rabbits, tornado procedures,
correcting bad habits, and calling legislators,
you still found time to give a smile, a nod, a touch,
a cougar buck or high-five, things that meant so much
To a struggling girl or boy. Now you have done your best
time to go out and enjoy, or maybe get some rest!
But this is not the end, bells will continue to ring
and surely you my friend, will be reminded each spring
that the seeds of wisdom you've sown will become fruitful trees
and in turn, when full grown, will replant those same seeds.

By Wynne Huddleston

Reprinted with permission.

Bob Pitzschler



President Bob Pitzschler opens the April meeting.

Photo by Helen Scinto

Does your address label say anything earlier than July, 2017? If so, it's time to pay your GBRTA dues. Save us the expense of mailing you a bill and send your dues check to Nan Stern at the address shown in the application on page 4.

Upcoming Trips Appeal to Varied Interests

Contact Lois Hoyt (203-261-6693/ Ldh29@aol.com) or Pat Jacobsen (203-367-9217/ pmjacobsen@aol.com) for reservations. Check the website (www.gbrta.org) for further information.

• June 15, 2016

“Splash Down” in Boston
See Boston by land and water in a DUCK
Lunch at Maggiano’s Little Italy
\$115 includes bus, lunch, DUCK tour, gratuities
Payment due by May 6, 2016

• July 10, 2016

Boston Pops at Tanglewood with Seth MacFarlane
Lunch at Cork ‘n Hearth or Red Lion Inn
\$137 includes bus, lunch, seat in Music Shed, gratuity
Payment due by June 1, 2016

• July 27, 2016

Old Sturbridge Village Lunch/Cabaret Show
Broadway delivers “The Melody Makers”
Lunch at Oliver Wight Tavern enroute to Sturbridge
\$89 includes bus, lunch and show, gratuities
Payment due by June 17, 2016

• August 10-12, 2016

Lake George and Saratoga
Features racetrack, 2 cruises, dinner theatre show
\$539 double, \$707 single, \$509 triple
Includes bus, hotel, 6 meals, admissions, gratuities
Payment due by June 29, 2016
Cancellation insurance available/recommended

• August 25, 2016

Lobsterfeast & Patsy Cline Tribute
Log Cabin in Holyoke, MA
\$97 includes bus, lunch and show, gratuities
Payment due by July 14, 2016

• September 7, 2016

9/11 Memorial and Museum
Late afternoon lunch at Carmine’s
\$104 includes bus, lunch, admission, gratuities
Payment due by August 1, 2016

• September 14, 2016

Broadway: “The Color Purple” OR “Bright Star”
Lunch at Buca di Beppo
\$209 for “Color Purple”; \$189 for “Bright Star”
Includes bus, lunch, orch/front or mezz seat, gratuities
Payment due by July 20, 2016

• October 19-21, 2016

Autumn in Lancaster: “Samson” at Millenium Theatre
Hotel: Country Inn of Lancaster
“Anything Goes” at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
\$489 double, \$619 single, \$469 triple
Includes bus, hotel, 4 meals, 2 shows, gratuities
Payment due by September 1, 2016
Cancellation insurance available/recommended

And hold these dates:

December 1: Boars Head Feast at Williams Inn
December 15: Christmas in Newport
Details in September newsletter



Photo by Helen Scinto

Walter Drozeck, with the help of Eleanor Gonzalez, examines the basket he won in the April scholarship raffle.

Your Support Helps Scholarship Fund

This June, the GBRTA will award scholarships worth \$1100 each to graduating seniors at 15 area high schools. While the amount is usually \$1000, the raffle of gift baskets designed and donated by Debbie Ruby and the gift cards donated by members for the December meeting has allowed the increased awards this year. Marilyn Mitchell, scholarship chair, welcomes donations to the scholarship fund and suggests that members might like to donate in honor or in memory of a colleague. Contact Marilyn for further information (moomyl@aol.com or 203-261-4746).

It's Time to Pay Your Dues

The income tax benefit achieved this year reflects the work of your professional organizations. Organized groups have clout, and the bigger the group, the greater the clout. Now it is the retired teachers' organizations that protect your pension and health benefits. For that reason alone, with cuts being made daily to the Connecticut budget, you should not only maintain your membership in GBRTA (and, hopefully, our parent group, ARTC) but also encourage one of your retired colleagues to join. For our 221 yearly members, the date next to your name on this newsletter tells when your dues are payable. And for all of our nearly 900 members, can you recruit a colleague—some one of your fellow retirees who is not yet a GBRTA member? (This newsletter has a handy enrollment form on the back page). Can we push our membership to 1000? 1200? Remember: there is strength in numbers.

Help Wanted – Tech Support

Are you comfortable using Twitter? Do you check your Facebook page every day? Can you create a brochure using Publisher, PageMaker or another document-producing software? Are Excel or PowerPoint part of your skill set? If so, we need your help! Many of us retired before computers, tablets and Smart Phones became part of daily life. If these are among your special talents, please contact Bob Pitzschler (203-723-8488 or rbpitz@att.net) and volunteer a few hours of your time to help bring GBRTA into the 21st century.

Join Us for Lunch

Testo's Restaurant, Bridgeport, CT

May 12, 2016

Memorial Service at 10:30 AM with business meeting and lunch to follow

Menu choices: Chicken Marsala Breaded tilapia Pork medallions
\$23

- Make checks payable to GBRTA. Note date and menu choice on check. Checks must accompany reservations. No checks accepted at the door.
- Reserve (by 5/6) /cancel (by 5/10) with:
Barbara Chuga, 27 Kitcher Court, Trumbull, CT 06611 (203-268-4535, chuga@att.net)
Kathleen Feller, 35 Cameo Road, Stratford, CT 06614 (203-380-1945, katfeller@optonline.net)
- Members may attend the Memorial Service and GBRTA meeting without staying for lunch. There will be a table for meeting-attendees only. To assure adequate seating, please contact Barbara Chuga or Kathleen Feller if you are coming.

Memorial Service Commemorates Deceased Colleagues

Prior to the general meeting at Testo's on May 12, the GBRTA will honor the memory of former members who have passed away in the last year with a Memorial Service starting at 10:30 AM. Chaplain Lucille Baver has arranged the program and has asked Reverend Timothy Hare of the Trumbull Congregational Church to be the speaker. Those to be remembered are as follows:

Ann Simon (4/5/15)	Dorothy Straub Genualdi (9/17/15)	Susan Bivona (2/26/16)
Walter Chop (4/8/15)	Mary E. Carley (10/22/15)	Catherine Zorzy (3/19/16)
William Magee (6/5/15)	Joseph Rutkosky (11/23/15)	Mary-Anne Conner (3/24/16)
Janet Crockett (7/23/15)	Geraldine Johnson (11/28/15)	Georgia Kilpatrick (4/15/16)
Frank Slinko (7/24/15)	Mary Louise Foerth (12/28/15)	
John Semosky (7/30/15)	Patricia Belade (1/11/16)	
Beatrice Marden (8/9/15)	Joan DelVecchio (1/13/16)	
Lottie Palmer (9/3/15)	Margaret Clinkscales (1/22/16)	
Carmella Esposito (9/3/15)	Robert Hustek (2/12/16)	
Isobel Broadhurst (9/16/15)		

If you know of any other member who has died in the past year, please notify Lucille Baver at 203-459-0708.

2016 FALL MEETING DATES

GBRTA
General Meetings
10:30 AM

October 6, 2016
November 10, 2016
December 8, 2016

GBRTA
Executive Board
10:00 AM

September 22, 2016
October 27, 2016
November 17, 2016

GBRTF
Executive Board
10:00 AM

September 7, 2016
November 2, 2016

IN BRIEF

Because attendance has fallen steadily in recent years, we will forego the annual picnic in June and plan for a bigger and better end-of-year activity in 2017.

Starting in the fall, Trudi and Larry Black will handle lunch reservations.

The GBRTA budget, presented on April 7, will be voted on at the May 12 meeting.

On Lobby Day, 27 legislators met with 120 retired teachers and each walked away with an apple from the teacher.

There is still time to register for the ARTC spring meeting on May 17 and/or the CEA-R spring meeting on May 26, both at Aqua Turf. For ARTC details, call 860-284-9760; for CEA-R, call Greta at 203-878-8081.

The GBRTF will elect officers for 2016-2018 at its annual meeting, immediately following the GBRTA meeting on May 12.

Member Services chairperson Peggy Vaughn will soon distribute spring flowers to members who are hospitalized, shut-in, or homebound. If you know someone who qualifies, please inform Peggy (203-452-8219).

Please notify Nan Stern at 203-261-9791 or nanstern19@aol.com if you change your phone number, home or email address.



GBRTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues: \$20 Life Membership: \$250

Membership year runs from July 1-June 30. Please keep your dues current. Anyone behind in dues for two years or more will be dropped from the membership file and must repay two-years' back dues to be reinstated.

Mail form and dues (payable to GBRTA) to Nan Stern, 44 Lafayette Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611

 Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Year retired _____ School system _____