

# Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association

May 2017

Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Milford Monroe Shelton Stratford Trumbull

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### From the President's Podium

*I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework – Lily Tomlin as “Edith Ann”*

*The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book – Author Unknown*



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Did you know that you belong to an organization that is 66 years old? Yes, the GBRTA was formed in 1951 with Miss Lucy Curtiss as President. Our general purposes for being are to provide educational, cultural, and social activities for retired teachers, to assist those retired teachers who might be in need, and to provide students with scholarship assistance. Membership is open to anyone receiving a teacher retirement pension and who lives in or taught in any of the eight towns that make up the Greater Bridgeport area. We are one of fourteen organizations affiliated with the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC), whose sole purpose is to work for the betterment of Connecticut's retired teachers.

We hold five general membership meetings a year, during which members are informed of items of interest such as retirement and health benefits; entertainment or an educational program is provided; an excellent lunch is served; and ample time is allotted for socializing with old and new acquaintances. We offer many one-day or over-night trips, and we award \$16,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors who expect to become teachers. We are a force and a voice for retired teachers both locally and at the State level.



Photo by Helen Scinto

Rose D'Aquila thanks April speaker, Probate Judge TR Rowe.

Additionally, members benefit from the Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers' Fund, whose purpose is to assist retired teachers in need with short-term home health care, health insurance, and lifeline assistance. Each fall GBRTA members receive a letter outlining procedures for applying for help and identifying what income restrictions may apply. Established in 1973, the Fund is separately endowed and operates independently of the GBRTA, though the two organizations have shared officers or board members. The Fund's president reports periodically at our general membership meetings.

With dues at just \$20 a year, GBRTA membership is a steal! You know that, of course. But won't you share that information with colleagues who are not yet members? We offered a half-price rate for lunch at our April 6 meeting, and you brought 13 guests, many of whom have joined. We are also offering a **two-month-free special**: Someone who joins now will not owe dues again until July 1, 2018. Who doesn't love a bargain? The more members we have, the stronger our voice with our State legislators.

And finally spring has sprung. Enjoy it!

Bob Pitzschler

### It's Time for Dues

Does your address label say anything earlier than July, 2018? 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.

## **Trips for Summer and Early Fall**

Contact Angela McKelvey (203-227-3222/ lamckelvey@optonline.net) for reservations. **Send checks to Angela McKelvey, 273A Agawam Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. Please include your phone number on your check.** Consult our website ([www.gbarta.org](http://www.gbarta.org)) for fuller descriptions of the trips.

### **June 19, 2017**

Sail Boston 2017

Tall ships in Boston harbor; Boston harbor cruise

Lunch at a Boston restaurant

\$135 includes bus, lunch, cruise, gratuity

*Payment due by May 8*

### **June 29, 2017**

One World Observatory-Freedom Tower, NYC

Tallest building in Western hemisphere

Late afternoon lunch at Carmine's

\$119 includes bus, admission, lunch, gratuity

*Payment due by May 18*

### **September 6, 2017**

9/11 Memorial and Museum

Late afternoon lunch at Carmine's

\$111 includes bus, admissions, lunch, gratuity

*Payment due by July 26*

### **September 22, 2017**

Cape Cod Scallop Festival and Mystery Stop

East Falmouth, MA

Complete fried scallops or chicken dinner included

Mystery destination after festival

\$114 includes bus, admission, dinner, gratuity

*Payment due by August 11*

### **Hold the following dates:**

October 12 Vermont Fall Foliage Tour

October 19 Oktoberfest at Krucker's Resort, NY

December 12 Boars head Feast at Williams Inn

*Details in September newsletter*

## **Lobby Day and Beyond**

On March 29, between the 24 people who filled the GBRTA bus and those who drove themselves, about 30 GBRTA members attended Lobby Day at the State capitol. At an opening session, representatives of ARTC, CEA-R, and AFT, who co-sponsored the event, met the 155 retired teachers to lay out issues to discuss with the senators and representatives. ARTC and CEA-R differed on whether to advocate for the 50% income tax relief or avoid calling attention to a possible revenue source. Other topics of concern were the State's promised 1/3 contribution to our Health Insurance Premium Plan (HIPA) and funding the teachers' pension.

Although the legislature was not in session that day, many legislators were at the capitol. Clearly impressed by the strong teacher turnout, some twenty speakers from around the state greeted the retired teachers at lunch. The final speaker was Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. The legislators who met with those attending Lobby Day were supportive, and many reiterated that promises made should be promises kept.

It appears that our income tax relief is safe for now. But as Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over." The legislature is in session until early June, and the angst of the budget uncertainty between the State and the local towns continues. So stay tuned. Consult [www.artct.org](http://www.artct.org) for the latest information and read the email updates from CEA-R. You may need to contact your legislator again.

### **Members to Vote for New Slate of Officers**

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Greta Stanford and including Pat Yacovacci and Joan Capron, presented a slate of officers for 2017-2019 at the April 6 meeting. After a call for nominations from the floor, the slate will be voted on at the May 11 meeting.

Candidates for a second term are President Bob Pitzschler, 1st Vice-president RoseMarie D'Aquila, and Recording Secretary Marilyn Feranec. New candidates are Treasurer, Helen Scinto, and Corresponding Secretary, Rita McDougald-Campbell. As the previous president, Barbara Kmetz automatically remains as 2nd Vice-president.

## Join Us for Lunch

### Testo's Restaurant, Bridgeport, CT

Doors open at 10:00 AM Memorial Service at 10:30 AM

**May 17, 2017**

Chicken marsala Tilapia francaise Baked ham  
\$25

- Make checks payable to GBRTA. Note date and menu choice on check. Checks must accompany reservations. No checks accepted at the door.
- Reserve by 5/5 or cancel by 5/9 with Trudi or Larry Black, 487 Church Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 (203-261-6576, [trudib@aol.com](mailto:trudib@aol.com) or [laryblak@aol.com](mailto:laryblak@aol.com)).
- Members may attend the Memorial Service /GBRTA meeting without staying for lunch. There will be a table for meeting-attendees only. To assure adequate seating, please contact Trudi or Larry Black if you are coming.

## IN BRIEF

As of May 1, Angela McKelvey will handle trips. Many thanks to Lois Hoyt for her years of service as the Trips chair.

Sandy Petrucelli-Carbone has replaced Virginia Loch as Investments chair. Again, many thanks to Virginia for her service.

The GBRTA budget, presented on April 6, will be voted on at the May 11 meeting.

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

The annual GBRTF meeting will immediately follow the GBRTA meeting on May 11.

There is still time to register for the ARTC spring meeting on May 16 and/or the CEA-R spring meeting on May 25, both at Aqua Turf. For ARTC details, call 860-284-9760; for CEA-R, call Greta at 203-878-8081.

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

## Memorial Service Commemorates Deceased Colleagues

On Thursday, May 11, prior to the general meeting at Testo's, 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 Todd Shipley on Unity Hill United Church of Christ in Trumbull to be the guest speaker.

Those to be remembered are as follows:

Martha Mahoney	4/25/16	Dorothy A. Anderson	10/5/16	Anne Pjura	1/12/17
Helen Liskov	5/26/16	Hannah Knepler	10/20/16	Edward Gill	1/15/17
Ethel Elson	6/5/16	Sophie Secor	10/22/16	Alice Brochinsky	1/18/17
Sandra Peslak	7/3/16	Elsa Burns	10/24/16	Rita Quatrella	1/25/17
Patricia Bruno	7/9/16	Ilona Walsh	10/29/16	Peter Harrity	1/27/17
Marjorie Schlosser	7/11/16	Jean Foster	5/10/16	Margaret Nemeck	2/25/17
Sally Redston	7/22/16	Rose Walker	5/15/16	Fernand Tetreau	3/29/17
Alice Anderson	9/1/16	Jane Dionis	11/5/16	Judith Faulkner	4/5/17
Catherine Williams	9/19/16	James Lehaney	11/16/16		
Claire Rosenberg	10/4/16	Warren Bosley	12/9/16		

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

## FALL MEETING DATES

### GBRTA

General Meetings  
10:30 AM

October 5, 2017  
November 9, 2017  
December 7, 2017

### GBRTA

Executive Board  
10:00 AM

September 14, 2017  
October 19, 2017  
November 30, 2017

### GBRTF

Executive Board  
10:00 AM

September 6, 2017  
November 1, 2017



## 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**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Year retired \_\_\_\_\_ School system \_\_\_\_\_