May is the best month. This is especially true this year for our families and friends up North who have been snowed under and frozen. Being from Chicago, I remember when the sun finally came out in May. People working downtown would spend their lunch break catching some rays in Grant Park. It was great to be outdoors. May is the time to plan your Summer vacation. In South Florida, we are lucky that we are able to enjoy our great weather all year around.

We remember our mothers on Mother’s Day, which is May 10. The earliest origins of Mother’s Day in the United States were efforts to promote peace by honoring mothers who lost or were at risk of losing their sons to war. Mairead Corrigan, whose sister lost three children killed in violence in Northern Ireland on August 10, 1976, and a witness to this shooting incident, Betty Williams, a housewife, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, when they began the Community of Peace People in Northern Ireland by knocking on doors to rally thousands of mothers of Northern Ireland to stop the violence that had seized their streets for decades. They were a powerful force. God bless our mothers.

Memorial Day is May 25. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a proclamation calling for “Decoration Day” to be observed annually and nationwide. The Grand Army of the Republic was a veteran’s organization for Union Civil War veterans. Decoration Day was renamed Memorial Day extending the honor to all Americans who died while in the military service. Flags are placed on the graves of soldiers. Politicians and citizens pay tribute to our fallen heroes. Flowers are usually in full bloom towards the end of May.

The BCBA remembers its mission. This last year it diligently planned events that have traditionally defined the important role of BCBA in our community, such as the Robing Ceremony, the Fourth District Court of Appeals Reception, the Legislative Affairs Reception and the many seminars presented by our sections to keep their members abreast of the latest changes and updates in the law in their areas of practice. Co-Chairs Caryn Carvo and Laura Varela are now organizing the Bench and Bar Convention which will be held on Oct. 23.

The BCBA has introduced several new events that are in line to be repeated next year, including the Reading of the Constitution which is scheduled for Sept. 17. The speed mentoring programs, put on jointly by the Young Lawyers Section, the Professionalism Committee and the Membership Committee, continue to match mentors and mentees. The Malpractice Summit and the Roger Staley Real Property Seminar are on the planning boards for September 2015.

We have also added “Where in the World is the Barrister” as a fun addition to the Barrister depicting our members at play in the U.S. and around the world, and we have updated the BCBA Logo, which is now federally registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In April, the BCBA fielded a team of runners in the Mercedes-Benz Corporate run in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Judge William Haury has been added as the judicial representative to the Bench and Bar Committee. He will work closely with Chairperson, James Camp III, and Vice Chair person, Robert Vaughan, to bring an important judicial voice and judicial prospective to the Bench and Bar Committee.

The BCBA strives to be a relevant leader in Broward County by consistently presenting quality programs and activities. The Broward Bar includes all our members into these worthwhile activities. There is something for everyone. Remember to get involved.