

# The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 49, Issue 6

December 2020

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
Virtually  
January 12 at 10:00

**2021 MEETING DATES**  
All begin at 10:00 am

FEBRUARY 11—Trivia Contest  
MARCH 18—STRS Update  
APRIL 22—Program TBA  
MAY 20—Program TBA

**Join Us For These  
Zoom Gatherings**

**OCTOBER LUNCHEON  
FACE MASK WINNERS**

Judith Bashforth  
Alissa Burton  
Pat Holz  
Lois Ingersoll

**Congratulations &  
Thank You for the Fun**

## ORTA NEWS

Hopefully you read the recent ORTA newsletter, sent via email on October 29<sup>th</sup>. I want to bring to your attention the **proposed forensic audit of the STRS Pension System**. (See page 5 of the ORTA October Newsletter or go to ORTA's website [orta.org](http://orta.org) for more information and to contribute to the **cost of the audit—\$75,000**. As of November 13<sup>th</sup>, **\$18,162 have been contributed** by individuals and chapters.)

In the same issue, there is a special tribute to Marion Boyer, beloved long-time member and officer of LCRTA, written by her husband, Jim. (See page 7 of ORTA October newsletter)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is a beauty, admire it.  
Life is bliss, taste it.  
Life is a dream, realize it.  
Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is costly, care for it.  
Life is wealth, keep it.  
Life is love, enjoy it.  
Life is mystery, know it.  
Life is a promise, fulfill it.  
Life is a sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is Life, fight for it!

By Mother Teresa

Life in 2020 has been many of the words that Mother Teresa so brilliantly and beautifully penned—"challenge, sorrow, struggle, tragedy..." I particularly cherish her parting words—"Life is Life, fight for it!" We must all continue to fight to stay safe and healthy and keep others safe and well and to try to find bright spots in each day.

Due to the pandemic, many activities have "gone virtual"—telemedicine, live streamed worship, concerts, virtual book clubs, travel and art experiences. LCRTA joined that inevitable trend in

May with Zoom Executive Board meetings and then again in September for membership meetings.

Your LCRTA executive board recently made the difficult but necessary decision to **cancel all in-person luncheon meetings through May 2021**. Even though there is promising news of a COVID-19 vaccine, we must remain vigilant with wearing facial coverings, social distancing and small gatherings.

Our in-person luncheons would put us all at-risk. We are **dedicated to continue to offer virtual "gatherings" via Zoom and provide speakers and some fun opportunities for members to participate**. (2021 schedule on Page 1)

Participation in the two Zoom meetings has been lighter than we hoped for, therefore one change we decided upon is to **move the time to 10 AM for all future Zoom membership gatherings**. If you have participated in either or both the September and October Zooms, please continue to join us and invite an LCRTA friend or two. We will have a drawing for a Panera gift card and **every member who invites a friend, who participates in the Zoom**, will be entered. (More information on this in the January Slate.)

My sincere hope is that we can all reunite in-person in October 2021 for a joyous celebratory luncheon!! Stay well.



## HO,HO,HO!—Nan Fetter

Santa won't be making a trip to the Toledo Club this year, but that doesn't mean that LCRTA won't be bringing joy to the children of Lucas county. I have contacted Julie Malkin, the Director of Communication & Government Relations for Lucas County Children Services, with the happy news that Santa will don his mask and deliver a **\$300 check from the elves who belong to Lucas County**

**Retired Teachers**. Years ago a little girl asked a newspaper if there was a Santa? For the members who ask this year, yes, Flo and Georgianne and Judy and Mary Lynn, there is a Santa, and he will see that the money from us will bring joy to the children in Lucas



Continued on page 3

# JOIN US VIRTUALLY...

**FEBRUARY, MARCH,  
APRIL & MAY**

**Connect via Zoom  
with LCRTA friends**

**for great fun & companionship**

[Click here](#) for instructions

**Watch for details of a special  
February Virtual event!**

## WE FOUND THE RECIPE

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, LCRTA members and Board members clicked on the invitation to the Zoom luncheon meeting, which connected them to the Zoom app on their computer or iPhone (the app is FREE by the way).

President Susan welcomed people as they joined, and the hunt for the recipe was on. We had the people ingredients, but we needed a chef. Who better to stir up some fun than the Blade's own food editor Mary Bilyeu? Mary shared with us the ins and outs of living a life surrounded by food. Occasionally, one of her cats would show up in the background which led Mary to the tale of her 14 cats. If you have ever wondered about the food pictured in her articles that appear in the Blade, this is what Mary has to say, "every week I shop, prep, cook/bake, and do photo shoots for my feature stories. Today we're doing Thanksgiving dinner #1; next week is #2." She is strictly a scratch baker—no gadgets adorn her counters.

This idea of scratch cooking lead seamlessly into the next portion of Mary's presentation, questions from the members. Her first question was about an Instapot. She laughed because she doesn't use one, which brought up pressure cookers old and new. Everyone seemed to have a story to tell. Mary fielded other questions about cooking for vegans and vegetarians. President Susan thanked Mary for "cooking" with the group and asked her to judge the next activity, the Face Mask Contest. As members donned their masks, Mary selected the best in each of four categories with each winner receiving a \$10 gift certificate to Panera.

And there it is. The recipe for fun is attending an LCRTA Zoom event. Watch the Slate and your email for the dates.

### RECIPE FOR FUN

1. Zoom App
2. LCRTA Members
3. Chef Mary Bilyeu
4. Face Mask Contest



## LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya

With the December holidays approaching, all of us are adjusting to uncharted ways of celebrating with families and friends. I, like most of you, am trying to figure out how to navigate this Covid reality of caution. So what's a retired teacher to do with all the restrictions plus living in a climate that does not allow us to comfortably get together outside?

I challenge you, first, to reach out to ten family members or friends whom you have not had much contact with since last March. Although sending holiday cards has not been as much "in vogue" as it once was, this is the year to embrace the tradition. Choose a card, write a note in it, address the envelope, lick a stamp, mail and know that you have made someone's day. I realize you could email, message or tweet a greeting, but let's go old school this year. Plus we are helping the USPS—win! win!

Entertaining is going to be a complex issue this year. Member Mary Goodwin and her husband cleverly are planning a drive by party to replace their Annual Holiday Open House. Seventy-five guests are expected to drive to their home, at staggered times, and receive an adult "happy meal." The hosts will be at the end of their driveway ready to distribute a box chock full of appetizers, an adult beverage, desserts and a small handmade ornament. Although hosts and guests will only be able to converse (with masks) for a few moments, at least all will be able to still be part of the Goodwin festive tradition.

I have grandchildren in Japan and in Florida. Yes, it breaks my heart that I will not be able to hug them this year, but this grandma has it covered. Connecting via Zoom, we have decided that all of us will be sipping hot cocoa and enjoying cookies as we open presents that we have sent to each other. We are also considering drawing names and having a secret gift exchange and even the littlest can participate. We're even working out the logistics of playing holiday bingo!

I recently read an article that many of us are experiencing cooking fatigue. I reached out to Cousin Wendy to share her **easiest** no bake cookie recipe. Wendy is the only person I know who has actually entered and won numerous recipe contests. Thus, my December gift to you is the recipe for No Bake Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies:

### NO BAKE CHOCOLATE OATMEAL COOKIES

- ½ Cup butter or margarine
- 2 Cup sugar
- ½ Cup milk
- 4 Tablespoon cocoa
- ½ Cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 Teaspoon vanilla
- 3-3 ½ Cup dry quick oats

Directions on page 3—>



Continued on page 3

**2021 LCRTA and/or ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired: \_\_\_\_\_ School served: \_\_\_\_\_

LCRTA DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_\_\_ Life  
 \$20 per year, \$175 Life Membership)

ORTA DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly  
 ORTA (\$30 per year)

DATE (today's) \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to LCRTA (one check handles both LCRTA & ORTA)**



Send this form & check to: **LCRTA Treasurer; 2155 Arlington Avenue; Toledo, OH 43609**

**DON'T MISS ANY OF OUR 2021 EVENTS!**

Memberships in ORTA and LCRTA  
**EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**RENEW now for 2021**  
 by completing the above  
 Membership Form

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**  
**CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS \***  
 Phone Kathy Benya at: 419.843.2480  
 Email her at: [kathybenya@gmail.com](mailto:kathybenya@gmail.com)

\* Please update Kathy with new information

**HO, HO, HO** continued from page 1

**OCT & NOV BOARD MEETING NEWS**

County who need it. Members are encouraged to send a donation of their own. Make checks payable to **Friends of Lucas County Children Services at PO BOX 441, Maumee, OH 43537**. This money will be used to "fill the gaps" in Children Services gift offerings.

It will be Ho! Ho! Ho! again for the children of Lucas County who are in need. This \$300 contribution means that LCRTA is able to say that we are proud of 15+ years of contributing to a cause so near and dear to our hearts. Judy Malkin, recently commented in an email: "Please extend our thanks to the retired teachers. We appreciate your lifelong service to children."

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

**LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID** continued from page 2

Add first four ingredients in a 4 quart saucepan. Bring to a rolling boil for a minute as you stir. Remove from heat. Add peanut butter to hot mixture and stir until melted. Add vanilla. Mix in the oats and drop by tablespoon onto parchment paper. Let cool until set. Refrigerate.

Have a wonderful December, my friends. If you have any ideas how to make this month memorable, please email me at [kathybenya@gmail.com](mailto:kathybenya@gmail.com). Then again, you could surprise me with a greeting card!

- LCRTA Officers shall remain the same for 2021 with the exception of recording secretary. Paul Raczkowski resigned and Kathy Benya agreed to replace him.
- A **February Zoom membership** meeting will replace the cancelled December meeting.
- Community partners were approved for 2021

**LCRTA WORD FIND**

S R L T Y T N U O C E I  
 A E L U N C H E O N M S  
 C S Y P G S D N E I R F  
 U M S T N D N O H E E E  
 L O X O I E A V H F T O  
 E O R H C R R C E R I I  
 T Z C T N I A D A L R I  
 K M E O A E A H L A E H  
 D D G H T Q O T C I D L  
 D C Y T S Y R T I C H D  
 E I Y T I N U M M O C C  
 T P H H D M J L N S N U

**ASSOCIATION  
 CHARITY  
 CHILDREN  
 COMMUNITY  
 CONNECTED  
 COUNTY  
 DISTANCING  
 FRIENDS  
 LUCAS  
 LUNCHEON  
 ORTA  
 RETIRED  
 SOCIAL  
 TEACHERS  
 ZOOM**

## 2020 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Secretary—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Corresponding Secretary—Kathleen Brunt: 734.856.3737  
Treasurer—Nancy Wiegand: 419.866.1980  
Budget/Finance—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Community Participation—Nan Fetter: 419.885.1692  
Courtesy—Pauline LoCascio: 419.779.1569  
Evaluations—Doris Weiss: 419.874.2275  
Legislative—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Lunch Reservations—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Or 419.351.2601  
Membership—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Public Relations—Carol Rosebrock: 419.754.3751  
Scholarship—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603  
Slate Editor/Webmaster—Jane Nawrocki: 419.861.7766  
Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.841.2593  
50/50 Raffle—Wanda Anderson: 419.841.2593  
Judy Egan

## THE SLATE

Lucas County Chapter  
Ohio Retired Teachers Association  
2155 Arlington Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43609

## NONPROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TOLEDO OH  
PERMIT #106

## SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT HOME BREAK-INS—Jeannine Petcoff

According to AARP, thefts and burglaries increase as much as 10% in the summer, but with winter quickly approaching, the safety story remains the same.

So how does one decrease the risk of home break-ins? Follow the three golden rules of theft prevention.

### 1. ALWAYS MAKE YOUR HOME APPEAR OCCUPIED.

Use timers to turn lamps and TV's on and off at different hours of the evening. Outside, install motion activated lighting sensors. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and they will also switch on when you come home late at night to illuminate the path to your door. Have oil stains on your driveway where you park the extra car? Keep the car parked there while you are away. Do not let newspapers and mail pile up. Suspend service or have a neighbor pick them up while you are gone.

2. **BE OVER ZEALOUS AT LOCKING UP.** Make sure front doors, side doors, back doors, garage doors, and windows are secured before leaving home and before going to bed. Do not hide keys outside the house especially near the front door. Consider giving that extra key to a trusted neighbor or friend who lives close by.

### 3. NEVER LEAVE OR KEEP VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR.

Laptops, credit cards, phones, wallets, and purses all contain valuable personal information. These can

become especially tempting when easily seen through a car window even if the doors are locked.

Need a few more suggestions to help put your mind at ease? Some additional hindrances include a monitored security system for those who can afford it. Not within your budget? Check out smart home technologies. Video doorbells, key locks, security cameras, motion sensors, and even lighting can be economically purchased and installed by the do-it-yourselfer. These devices can be monitored and controlled with your cell phone or other smart devices.

Still not in your comfort zone or affordability? Install security signs in your yard and on your windows. Make friends with your neighbors. Exchange phone numbers and email addresses so you can contact each other in emergencies. Organize or join a block watch group. And one more idea, keep bushes and shrubs trimmed and lower to the ground to minimize burglar hiding places.

In today's world nothing seems certain or fool proof. There are, however, things that can be done to lower the risk and possibly even prevent home break-ins from happening.

