

# The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 49, Issue 5

October 2020

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
Virtually  
October 6 at 10:00

**ORTA UPDATE-**  
Susan Santoro

**LISTEN UP!**



Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) launched a podcast called [ORTACAST](#)—"The only podcast that advocates, serves and builds friendships for both retired and active educators." You can find it on Spotify (and other apps), their website [www.ORTA.ORG](http://www.ORTA.ORG) or on ORTA's Facebook page. The first podcast presents "ORTA's Mission and Advocacy to Reinstate the COLA for Ohio Retirees." It also features a "quick statement on POP5 Mailings and a featured scholarship."

For additional history about our COLA, go to:

[www.lcrta.weebly.com](http://www.lcrta.weebly.com)  
Click COLA UPDATE button

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

A friend and I were chatting on the phone the other day. We both have pools in our yards and were lamenting about the change in the weather and that soon we would "close" our pools for the year. We both sighed and said how sad it is to look out our kitchen window and see our pool covered in preparation for fall and winter. What does the season of fall mean to you? Some people say it is their favorite season.

### LEAVES by Elsie N. Brady

How silently they tumble down  
And come to rest upon the ground  
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,  
Beneath the trees without a care,  
Content to sleep, their work well done,  
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly  
Until they nearly reach the sky.  
Twisting, turning through the air  
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.  
Exhausted, drop to earth below  
To wait, like children, for the snow.

[Click Here](#) for details on how to join the Zoom "luncheons" (or refer to September Slate—archived on [lcrta.weebly.com](http://lcrta.weebly.com)). All members who have provided their email address will receive an invitation. Encourage friends and former teaching colleagues to join LCRTA and **enjoy the virtual gatherings** we have planned for you.



Please continue to keep all school personnel in your thoughts as they navigate the various forms of teaching and preparation required during these challenging times.

I hope that you all are staying healthy and as happy as possible. Maybe a walk in your neighborhood or nearest Metro-park on a sunny fall day will brighten your spirit and lighten your mood.

**Don't miss the fun at the October 29 Virtual Luncheon**

## MUCH NEED FOR LEADING FAMILIES HOME

Leading Families Home (formerly known as Beach House/Focus) is part of a local effort to provide emergency shelter to homeless women and families while also putting great effort into addressing the increasing opioid crisis facing those who seek shelter. I cannot think of a time when this task has been more daunting. Every day finds more people in Lucas County facing survival problems. In the face of the pandemic, Leading Families Home must work to provide its clients "with a healthy, secure environment and an opportunity to participate in recovery programs, attend in-house and off-site support meetings" so that families in crisis are able to "gain support from staff and fellow clients" in a secure environment. At our **October 29<sup>th</sup> Zoom luncheon** Tammy Holder, Chief Executive Officer of LFH, will give us more insight into the work being done by this LCRTA Community Partner. If individual members would like to make a contribution directly to Leading Families Home the address is: **Tammy Holder, Leading Families Home, 2283 Ashland Ave, Toledo, OH.** Working together we can make a difference.



# CANCELLED

## OCTOBER & DECEMBER IN-PERSON LUNCHEONS

### HOWEVER—Join us virtually to connect with LCRTA friends & members

[Click here for instructions](#)

## MYSTERY IN THE TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya

Did you read the **Nancy Drew mysteries**? Knowing now that the author of the early books in the series were from the pen of **Toledo's own Millie Benson**, makes me love these books even more. My love affair with mystery series began with those Nancy Drew books by "Carolyn Keene," and it has continued throughout my reading life. In 1982, I read *A is for Alibi* by **Sue Grafton** and was hooked on joining Kinsey Milhone, a private detective in Santa Teresa, California. Each title began with a letter of the alphabet, and in 2017 *Y is for Yesterday* was published. Unfortunately, Grafton died before she could complete the final letter of the alphabet mystery. I have also been hooked on a husband and wife who each have written mystery series. Faye Kellerman has written 25 mysteries with Peter Decker and his wife as the main characters. This series appeals to me as mysteries with a bonus of learning ever so much about, of all things, Orthodox Judaism. Her husband, Jonathon Kellerman, has written 35 books in the Alex Delaware series. Delaware is a child psychologist who assists the LAPD in solving crimes.

Which brings me to my COVID mystery series reading. In March I discovered **Jacqueline Winspear's Maisie Dobbs' series**. Thanks to Maisie, I was able to escape to England from about 1920-1950. Maisie is a brilliant independent woman who owns her own detective agency. Winspear has carefully constructed this series with historical accuracy, and I was able to travel with Maisie through both World War I and World War II. Ta Dah! I finished the entire series as we sheltered in place.

And what am I reading now? I am currently in Venice, Italy, **following the exploits of Commissario Brunetti**, as he catches criminals, drinks fine wine, and eats marvelous pasta. Donna Leon, the author of 25 books in the series, has allowed me to travel to Europe in spite of COVID19!

All of these series are available at the Toledo Lucas County Library. I usually just have them delivered electronically and read them on my Kindle. I have, though, reserved and picked up others at my library. I would love to hear from any of you who are as obsessed, as I am, with a good mystery series. Please email me your recommendations and why they appeal to you.



Contact me at: [KathyBenya@gmail.com](mailto:KathyBenya@gmail.com)



### OCTOBER SPEAKER

#### Food for Thought: Compliments of *The Toledo Blade*

Since we cannot join together to share a meal, we can do the next best thing and listen to someone whose life is filled with food.

The **LCRTA Zoom meeting is Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 NOON**, and our special guest speaker is **Mary Bilyeau**, Food Editor at *The Blade* and coiner of the word "Blursday" to describe COVID days at home. Ms. Bilyeau who has been Food Editor of *The Blade* since 2014 will discuss, among other ideas, the ever changing Food Page and the coming challenges of holiday food.

If you would like to ask Ms. Bilyeau a specific question, please email that question to Nan at [rfetter@bex.net](mailto:rfetter@bex.net) by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Nan will be sure that Ms. Bilyeau has your question before the October 29<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

Since the Blade Food Editor is providing words for our entree, as a dessert I thought members might enjoy filling in the blanks of the following food sayings.

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| A bad ___          | As easy as ___    |
| Bring home the ___ | Full of ___       |
| Cry over ___       | Selling like ___  |
| Take with a ___    | Sour ___          |
| Takes the ___      | ___ a day         |
| Landed in the ___  | In a ___          |
| Go ___             | ___ in one basket |
| ___ of my eye      |                   |

Please join fellow LCRTA members at **NOON on October 29<sup>th</sup> for our Virtual Luncheon** and avoid the "Blursday Blues."

**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 20201**  
 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

**AUG & SEP BOARD MEETING NEWS**

- Board agreed to transfer funds from the Edward Jones account to Community Participation account to provide one-time only monetary support for our six community charity partners.
- Susan updated the board on the proposed forensic audit of STRS Ohio. Excellent information at:

[Legislative News on LCRTA website](https://lcrta.weebly.com/legislative-news.html)  
 (<https://lcrta.weebly.com/legislative-news.html>)

**General Election Information**—Susan Santoro

In last month's Slate I provided information about voting in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. Did you know that there are many elected officials on the ballot in addition to President? In Lucas County there are 42 other candidates! There are county positions, judgeships, state representatives, state senators and congressional representatives. Please take time to look at the list of candidates and do some research. Here are some helpful websites:

- [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org)
- [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)
- [lwvtoledo.org](http://lwvtoledo.org)
- [judicial votes count.org](http://judicialvotescount.org)

**Let your voice be heard with your vote and be an informed voter.**

Fill each box of BINGO grid with an answer that **begins with letter above each column & belongs to category listed before each row**. List one answer for each box, although there may be more than one acceptable answer for box

	L	C	R	T	A
Learning Activity					
Lunch Favorite					
Extra Curricular			X		
Teaching Technique					
Reading					

## 2020 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Secretary—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603  
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

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## 6 TIPS TO FINDING THE DRIVE OF YOUR DREAMS—Jeannine Petcoff

Are you considering buying a new car in the not too distant future? If “yes” then consider the following interior aspects of your dream machine before you make a definite commitment, especially if your choice is based on a virtual tour, commercial or ad.

- **Is the car comfortable?** Can you adjust the seat belt height, seat height, back rest, lumbar support, side mirrors, and steering wheel to make them fit like a glove? What about headroom, legroom, visibility out the back window, and movement from gas pedal to brake pedal and back again? Are the cushions too soft or too firm?
- **Will all your stuff fit?** Bring along all the items you frequently carry with you: sports equipment, walker, stroller, cat carrier, dog kennel, luggage, etc. How easily do these items load, fit, and unload? Do the seats fold down? Is there a glove box and center console? Is there space for a purse, tote, or satchel?
- **Will it fit all your people?** Bring everyone along (grandkids, parents, etc.) who will use the car or spend lots of time in it. Will the space work for everyone? Try different seating arrangements. Can each person easily get in and out of the front and rear seats. How big is the back seat? How comfortable is it? What about headroom and legroom for the rear seat passengers?
- **Will the car and your phone get along?** Connect your phone to the car and see how easy it is to make calls, answer calls, and play your music. (Don't forget to delete

your profile when you are done!) Is the display simple to use? How does the display screen display your phone's maps? Ask for a demo. How comfortable are you making all the needed connections?

- **What important safety features does the vehicle have and what does each feature actually do and not do?** Check these features carefully! They vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and between vehicles of the same manufacturer. Be aware: feature names do not always accurately describe what the feature does and does not do. To date, there is no standardized name for any of the common advanced driver assistance systems found on vehicles. Can you customize features? Does each feature work independently or only when another system is engaged, going a certain speed, or direction? Spend time with the car's on screen menus.
- **Will the controls drive you crazy?** Try doing everyday tasks: changing radio stations, adjusting the heat and air conditioning, entering a destination into the navigation system. Are they easy to do or hidden within some on-screen menu? What about the controls on the steering wheel? Can you easily turn on the windshield wipers, adjust the cruise control, find the horn, and use the turn signals all while driving safely?

The average American will own a car for approximately 6 years before trading it in on a newer model. Will the vehicle you are thinking of purchasing be able to provide the ride of your dreams and needs for that length of time?

**Have fun shopping!**