

Buffalo Retired Teachers Assoc.

P.O. Box 1009

Williamsville, New York 14231

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

I hope that it will not be long before we can all be together again at a BRTA luncheon. Until then, be well and stay safe..

—Thomas Giambra, President

## **BRTA ANNUAL MEMBERS—YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP FOR RENEWAL**

If you need to renew your annual membership in BRTA, hopefully, you have mailed in the renewal form which was sent to you last month. This will ensure that no mailings, especially for the holiday activities, are missed.

If you have misplaced it, or need another form, please contact Linda Parada at 875-3392.

## **Scholarship Winners Announced**

It is with great pleasure that the Scholarship Committee announces the three scholarship winners of the graduating class of 2020:

ANNA GARDNER of City Honors School. Her accomplishments include NYS Scholarship for Academic Achievement, AP Scholar and Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors in Math and Science.

ALEXANDRIA DIAMOND of the Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has maintained honor roll distinction for her entire high school career.

ZANAYA HUSSAIN OF City Honors School. She is the recipient of the Josephine Slacer award. Her goal is to become an Emergency Medicine Doctor.

—Clarann Josef, chairperson

## **IN MEMORIAM**

<b>Clydean Bass Amaker</b>	<b>Joseph Murray</b>
<b>Michael Bogner</b>	<b>John Paananen</b>
<b>Anthony Catalfamo</b>	<b>Angelina Padula</b>
<b>Jim Decker</b>	<b>Joseph Palmieri</b>
<b>Catherine Divizzo</b>	<b>Ronald Peoples</b>
<b>Donald Flansburg</b>	<b>Charles (Chuck) Peszynski</b>
<b>Cornelius Gysels</b>	<b>Rose Poliachik</b>
<b>Maxine Hare</b>	<b>Kathy Roth</b>
<b>Kevin Hogan</b>	<b>Florence Rozier</b>
<b>Salvatore Incardona</b>	<b>Theresa Sabia</b>
<b>Yolanda Kothen</b>	<b>Joan Sutton</b>
<b>Elizabeth Leistner</b>	<b>Frank Szczepura</b>
<b>Dennis Licherelli</b>	<b>Salvatore Termini</b>
<b>Marjorie Marcy</b>	<b>Sybrnee Thompson</b>
<b>Francine Rizzo McMahon</b>	<b>Bettie Urban</b>
<b>Jean McNamara</b>	<b>Richard Voit</b>
<b>Nicholas Mogavero, Sr.</b>	<b>Delcine (Annette) West</b>
<b>Ralph Monahan</b>	<b>Patricia Winkler</b>

BRTA would like to acknowledge the passing of those teachers who served the children of Buffalo. If you would like to have someone included in the "In Memoriam" listings, please notify Josephine Cross (636-3014).

## **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I hope everyone has been able to stay safe and well during this most difficult time. The continued spread of this virus, at times, has been hard to comprehend. I often find myself watching anything but the news on TV. The impact of this pandemic on daily life has been dramatic. I know that adjusting to the new normal has been very hard for many. As for myself, I have avoided almost any social contact since March. I finally was able to go a medical appointment which I had postponed twice.

It was nice to see everyone who attended the winter luncheon at Sean Patrick's. We lucked out on the weather that day. It seemed that people enjoyed the food and the friendship that day. Thank you for your support of the split-club. The money raised was donated to the variety Club Telethon.

I am sorry that we had to cancel the spring luncheon at the Park Country Club. Obviously, we had no choice in the matter. I am sorry to report that we will have to cancel the fall luncheon at the Millennium Hotel. A decision on the holiday luncheon will be made soon. At this point, I am not too optimistic that we will be able to hold that event. We hope that we will be able to return to normal in 2021. However, that will be totally dependent on the status of the virus. Perhaps there will be better treatments or a vaccine by that time,

Our immediate past President, Charles Peszynski, passed away in April of this year. Chuck and his wife Loretta both worked very hard on behalf of retired teachers throughout their retirement. He was not only the President of BRTA, but also the President of the Western Zone of NYSRTA for three years. He also held many other offices in both organizations. I know that many of us who attended NYSRTA Convention each year often turned to Chuck for his advice on issues that were being discussed. He will surely be missed by all that knew and worked with him.

BRTA is awarding scholarships to three BPS students. The Scholarship Committee's report is located on the last page of this bulletin. The number of students who submitted applications this year was down due to the pandemic.

I was recently discussing with someone about the challenges educators are facing during this pandemic. We both agreed that we are happy that we are not teaching at this time. I can not imagine the stress that educators are facing. Let us hope that wise decisions are made about how to reopen schools. Also, that funds will be made available by all levels of government to do it safely.

Continued on next page