

# AARTA Reader

Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association



**Over 60 years of working for retired teachers in Kane County to . . .**

- ★ use our influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D. C.
- ★ improve our communication channels for more effective member participation
- ★ keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes
- ★ present a positive image in the community through our outreach programs

## *President's Message*

Wow! Patience and prayers have been in high demand these last 18 months. Everyone will have stories to share regarding this unprecedented time in our history. Let us pray that the worst of the pandemic is declining in sickness and death and that our school-aged youngsters will finally be able to receive protection as teachers and school personnel try to return to some sort of normalcy. We have seen much change occur, especially in the school setting. May our children/young adults grow stronger and may a love to learn shine brighter in their hearts.

Our first order of business is to find candidates for president and vice president. (Not for our country, but for AARTA!!) I have enjoyed holding this office for the last six years. The term is officially two years; so it's time for new ideas. Meg Safarik has agreed to stay on as treasurer, and Linda Weiss has also agreed to stay on as secretary. A huge thank you to them both. I've said this before, as teachers you are all leaders. For the continuation of AARTA, new leaders must step up. It's only for two years. Please consider a leadership role.

Regarding membership, our numbers are still strong at 360 members. Congrats to the new members who joined at our last luncheon. Current members are still our best recruiters. Strength in numbers holds true; so if you're not currently an IRTA member, please consider joining. It is only \$2.50 a month through the dues deduct program. Please don't ever take your pension and health insurance for granted. They are constant concerns to watch.

The IRTA Biennial Convention was held on October 19 via Zoom. New officers were elected, and amendments to the constitution voted upon. Hats off to the IRTA officers and staff for executing a very efficient convention. Check the IRTA website for further information and the video.

Big thanks to two tireless workers: Yvonne Hollingsworth and Pam Colwell, who are both stepping down as co-chairs of our Retirement Education committee. This position invites area retiring teachers to join AARTA and introduces them to members at our October and December luncheons. AARTA appreciates their time and effort over the last few years to notify newly retired teachers about our organization. We would love to have two more members step up to keep this committee active. It is under Membership, and the time frame is about March to June to invite retirees and the October and December luncheon to welcome any attending.

In closing, after thirty President's Messages, the time has come for me to step aside. I have been proud to serve you in this capacity, and I have enjoyed working with everyone very much. I will assist in any way that I can to help make this transition as easy as possible for the next president. Elections will be held at the December 7 luncheon, so please step forward NOW!

Also, remember we will have our cookie exchange at the December luncheon. Yummy! It seems too early to say "Happy Holidays" — but they're right around the corner.

AARTA will continue to be a strong, vibrant organization in our communities because of our members who always go the extra mile when it comes to helping our teachers, students, and communities. Let the tradition of service continue in the 2022 year quickly approaching. Let's make it our best year of service yet!

*Dick Schindel*

*You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.*

Maya Angelou



*AARTA Board of Directors  
and Committee Chairs*

**President:** Dick Schindel

**Secretary:** Linda Weiss

**Treasurer:** Meg Safarik

**Immediate Past President:** Meg Safarik

**ASC:** Concetta Baltz, Penny Bailey

**Health Information & Protective**

**Services:** Fay Wilson

**Legislative:** Linda Allison,

Jerry Lubshina

**Member Benefits:** Mary Ann Soszynski

**Membership:** Susan Schindel

**Newsletter:** Barb Zillgitt

**Program:** Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel

**Public Relations:** Maureen Granger,

Ron Nickerson

**New Retiree Outreach:** Pam Colwell,

Yvonne Hollingsworth

**Scholarship Liaison:** Maureen Granger

**Raffle:** TBA

**Reservations:** Ann Luker, Cheri Sager

**Sunshine:** Jo Fredell Higgins, Mary Ann  
Soszynski

**Friendship Blankets:** Eva

Balek

**Board meetings** are held at 9:15 a.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September, and November. Meetings are being held at Luigi's, 732 Prairie St., Aurora. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

General luncheon meetings are at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October, and December at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora.

Newsletter items are due by the Monday before the Board meeting in January, March, May, September, and November. Send them to bzillgitt685@gmail.com.



After several years of serving on the AARTA board, Yvonne Hollingsworth and Pam Colwell are stepping down as co-chairs of New Retiree Outreach. We are grateful for all the work they have done introducing AARTA to new retirees. We will miss seeing them at the board meetings. Please join us in thanking them for their donations of time and talent.

Of course, we are looking forward to welcoming our new committee chairs. Please let Pam, Yvonne, Dick Schindel, or any other current board member know that you and perhaps a friend will be willing to do this important work.

## Cookie Exchange!

Our December cookie exchange  
is back!

Please bring two to three dozen cookies  
— plain or fancy, decorated or not —  
to our lunch meeting on December 7.

We will enjoy them with our dessert  
that day, and you may take any  
remaining cookies home for you and  
your family to enjoy during the  
holidays.



Watch for a copy of our  
proposed new bylaws which  
will be coming your way via  
email very soon. These proposed changes  
more accurately reflect what AARTA is  
presently doing as well as helping us move  
forward as an organization that is  
making a positive difference for our  
members and our communities.

# AARTA Outreach



## Friendship Blankets (AKA Warm Fuzzies)

'Friendship Blankets' is the new meaningful and purposeful name chosen by our members for our incredible hand-crafted blankets. Words have meaning and names have power. We will all fondly remember the original name, 'Warm Fuzzie' and its cuddly connotations; however, this new name is clearer in purpose and sentiment.

We will be collecting and distributing our blankets to several senior care centers in June. Blankets may be tied, crocheted, knitted, or quilted. Remember these blanket specifications:

- Washable material
- 30" to 36" wide and 36" to 42" long
- Fringe or tassels should be short. Longer fringe can get caught in the wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment.

If you have questions, contact Eva Balek 630-913-6318 or [ebalek@gmail.com](mailto:ebalek@gmail.com).

## Another Call for Blankets

Recently Mary Hauge alerted us to another opportunity to make fleece blankets.

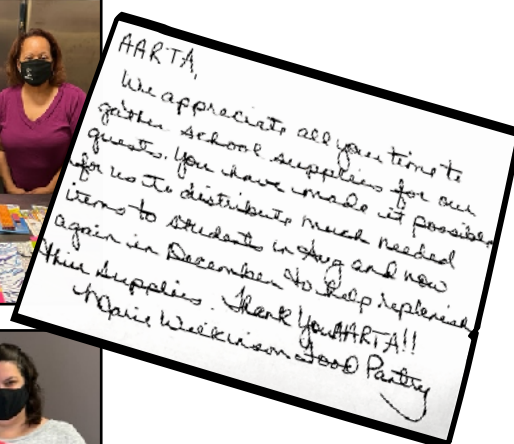
World Relief helps to settle Afghan refugees in the Chicago area. People from the Big Rock Library have made "Welcome to America" literacy kits for the children for several years. A stuffed animal, a pack of books, a fleece lap blanket, and a handmade card are included in each kit. The library has had a large donation of stuffed animals, and it has books and some other sources for gently used and new books, but it has no source for fleece lap blankets. Consequently, Mary and her team are looking for blanket makers.

If you would like to participate in this wonderful project by making fleece blankets, contact Mary at 630 556 3371 or [maryehauge@gmail.com](mailto:maryehauge@gmail.com) for more information.

## ASC — AARTA Serving Community

A big THANK YOU to all our members who generously donated school supplies or contributed to the purchase of supplies. We were able to deliver a wide variety of items that will help our students in need to be prepared for the school day. Your donations will be distributed to those in need at the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry through its program at East High.

At the December meeting, we will collect winter wear for our students through Cities in Schools. Please bring hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for boys and/or girls. Let's keep them warm this winter!



Cetta Baltz and Penny Bailey delivered school supplies to both food pantries in October.



## Scholarship Fund

Each year, we provide a \$1500 scholarship to an area student who will be attending a community college or trade school. Our scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. Students in our area may apply for this scholarship by contacting the Community Foundation: [communityfoundationfrv.org](http://communityfoundationfrv.org).

You may honor or remember a retired teacher by donating to our scholarship fund at any time. Money from our 50/50 raffles is added to our scholarship fund.

## Health Notes from Fay Wilson

### *In Remembrance*

**Jane Butters**, January 24, 1933 - September 5, 2020, taught elementary education in Dist. 303.

**Howard Burns**, September 20, 2021, was a teacher and coach for 34 years in West Aurora.

**Ruth Hogan**, December 25, 1923 - October 3, 2021 was a social worker for the Department of Children and Family Services and taught psychology at Aurora College and College of DuPage besides being a wonderful volunteer in the Aurora area and beyond.

*If you know of the death of an AARTA member, please let us know.*

*AARTA remembers each of these members with a \$15 donation to the IRTA Foundation and with contributions to our scholarship fund with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley.*

### OTHER AREA DEATHS

**Shirley Fenske**, October 9, 2021, taught for over 35 years in Batavia.



**Money raised through the December 50/50 raffle will be donated to the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry.**

### Let's Get the "Scoop" on Salt

Today I joined some friends from church for brunch. It turned out to be a fascinating experience, an eye opener on salt and tastes.

I saw salt being added to omelets, boiled eggs, tomatoes, potatoes, and even on eggs Benedict. When I got home, I dug out a recent *Chicago Tribune* article on salt from my recycle bag.

Come to find out, the amount of salt (sodium chloride) that is safe for us has been studied and researched for over a century! And it's very doubtful that it will be resolved in the near future.

Study after study on linking salt consumption with health issues found conflicting results. I read that over 100 million Americans have high blood pressure, a disorder that increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. For many people this risk is made worse by eating too much salt.

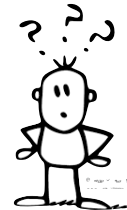
The typical American diet has more sodium levels than the American Heart Association recommends for healthy people. It is double the daily amount of 1,500 milligrams that the association believes ideal for people with high blood pressure.

For a long time, doctors have wanted Americans to lower their salt intake. January's newsletter will continue looking at salt in our diet. In the meantime, THINK taste buds, THINK savoring what we eat! Thanksgiving is on the way!! Go lightly on the salt! Have a joyful gathering with friends and loved ones. And, have a TASTEFUL dinner!

See you all in the New Year. 🍷🎉❤️

*Chicago Tribune*, 10/25/2021, Section 5, Health & Food

### Random Thoughts . . .



Listen to your body. I listen to mine and every day it tells me not to do Zumba. Amy Schumer

Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere. Anon.

"Alexa, bake me pumpkin donuts and tell me I'm skinny."

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi. Anon.

No one warns you how often you'll whisper "righty tighty, lefty loosey" to yourself as an adult. Anon

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes — come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller? Anon.



## *Directory Updates*

<b>Becker, Anne</b>		<b>630 364 8918</b>	<b>Morr, Joann</b>	<b>331 999 2219</b>
<b>Burgess, Sarah</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>630 333 5592</b>	2450 W Fabyan Pkwy #334	
771 Hermitage Dr.		Elem. Ed	Batavia, IL 60510	
Aurora, IL 60506			<b>Needam, Archie</b>	<b>129 630 341 8149</b>
<b>Cox, Marie</b>		<b>630 485 0405</b>	230 N. Columbus Blvd	HS Counselor
<b>DeTolve, Kathleen</b>		<b>630 605 0441</b>	Philadelphia, PA 19106	
<b>Essex, Jan</b>			<b>Newkirk, Cynthia*</b>	<b>131 630 715 6808</b>
2450 W Fabyan Pkwy #334			2 N. Willow Way	Elem. Ed
Batavia, IL 60510			North Aurora, IL	
<b>Freiheit, Lois</b>		<b>630 605 0441</b>	<b>Paul, Richard</b>	<b>630618 1456</b>
<b>Galli, Geraldine</b>		<b>331 999 3146</b>	<b>Rice, Christie</b>	<b>623 680 8642</b>
<b>Gilmore, Betty</b>		<b>630 464 2191</b>	<b>Sidmore, Earl</b>	<b>312 897 2002</b>
<b>Gilmore, Charles</b>		<b>630 207 4696</b>	<b>Skelley, James</b>	<b>630 885 9371</b>
<b>Griffin, Nancy*</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>630 897 3481</b>	<b>Skelley Susan</b>	<b>630 885 9372</b>
2287 Lowry St.		Elem.Ed	<b>Strong, Thomas</b>	<b>630 788 9341</b>
Aurora, IL 60506			<b>Tosaw, Tom</b>	<b>630 892 9775</b>
<b>LaVoy, Dotti</b>		<b>630 815 5119</b>	<b>White, Susan</b>	<b>630 240 9994</b>
<b>Liot, Debbie *</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>630 476 1777</b>		
25830 Meadowview		Sp. Ed		
Batavia IL 60510				
<b>Monti, Donna</b>				
3N533 Vachel Lindsay St.				
St. Charles, IL 60175				

\*new member

## *Membership Information*



Thank you to our annual and three-year membership members who have already renewed their 2022 AARTA dues. It is very much appreciated.

Letters were mailed out to all eligible renewing members. The remaining members will receive email reminders.

If you owe dues, please remit them before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to be included in the 2022 directory. Dues may be paid at the December luncheon or mailed to Susan Schindel (784 Morningside Ave., Aurora 60506).

New directories will be mailed in late January 2022, so it is critical that we have your updated addresses and phone numbers (landline to cell phone maybe?) from all of our current members, especially if you are an honorary, life, or three-year member. Even if you notified IRTA of these changes, please let us know also.

Email AARTA at [aurorartdchrs@outlook.com](mailto:aurorartdchrs@outlook.com) or phone Susan Schindel at 630 898 1307 to make sure our records are correct. We want to make sure that you receive all of our mailings in a timely manner and that our directory is as accurate as possible.





**For the latest news  
from IRTA,  
join IRTA and visit  
[irtaonline.org](http://irtaonline.org).**



Jo Fredell Higgins, AARTA Sunshine Lady, needs more birthday cards. You may bring them to the next luncheon and give them to any of our board members.

**AARTA and IRTA are not associated with  
IEA Retired or NEA Retired.**

**happy  
birthday**

See what other IRTA units are doing by looking at their newsletters. Go to [irta-newsletters.weebly.com](http://irta-newsletters.weebly.com) to see the different activities and newsletter formats. If you see something good that AARTA might do, let us know.

#### **November**

Bobbi Laffin	1
Kendra Nohl	1
Sylvia Roberts	1
Susan Cooper	2
Jo Fredell Higgins	3
Nancy Dralle Smith	5
Maureen Granger	6
Joann Morr	6
Candy Rady	7
Sandy Bauer Lay	8
Nancy McCloud	9
Alison King	10
Kay Flodstrom	12
Helen Hatchett	14
Pauline Scharf	14
Carolyn Hopkins	16
Gloria Jones	16
Cathy Bednar	17
Josie Gehler	18
Penny Bailey	19
Katie DeSotell	20
Carolyn Benson Dietz	21
Allan Rhea	23
Tom Tosaw	24
Rosa Marie Jackson	26
Polly Mittag	28
Carolyn Hogfelt	29
LaVerne Taylor	30

#### **December**

Barbara Huntley	1
Susan Schindel	3
Gail Gonzales	4
Joanne Spence	4
Eva Balek	8
Marilyn Horbus	8
Meg Safarik	11
Yvonne Hollingsworth	14
Carol Remissong	14
Dick Schindel	14
Joann Verdeyen	14
Roberta Kay Carson	15
Kathy Navota	15
Marie Cox	16
Bill Fornal	18
Josie Gehler	18
Patti Kenton	23
Donna Monti	23
Joseph Beary	24
Mary Frazer	24
Ruth Hogan	25
Geri Hill	26
Susan Skelley	27
Susan Grometer	29
Kathy Neely	30
Veronica Radowicz	30
Merry Carey	31
Mary Kay Godfrey	31
Mary O'Connor	31

Janet Strauss 31

#### **January**

Sandy Funky	2
Margaret Hardy	2
Pam Hansen	3
Itsuko Martinez	3
Frank Babich	4
Kim Becker	5
Jay Pape	10
Fay Wilson	11
Marilyn Hagler	14
Kathryn Hubbard	15
Mary Jane McFee	16
Marcia McBeath	21
Barb Agnew	25
Gloria Goodin	25
Jan Reynolds	26
Kay Volkert	26
Earl Sidmore	27
M. C. Byrd	28
Laurel Haase	28
Dick Paul	29

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect,  
contact Barb Zillgitt at  
[bzillgitt685@gmail.com](mailto:bzillgitt685@gmail.com) or  
331-276-9242.*

**[aurorartdtchrs@outlook.com](mailto:aurorartdtchrs@outlook.com)**

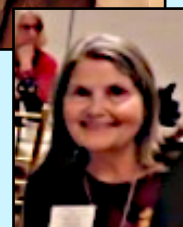
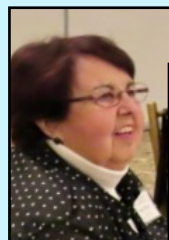
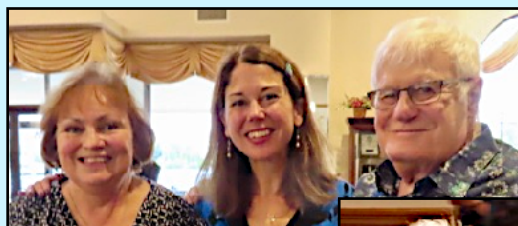


**Cubs game in September**

## **Lunch Dates for 21-22**

**December 7**

**February 8 • April 5 • June 7**



**October Lunch**

**Check out our website: [auroraarearta.org/home](http://auroraarearta.org/home)**

## **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

**Where: Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora**

**When: Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 11:30 a.m.**

**Price: \$20.00**

**Reservation due date: Friday, November 26, 2021**



**Last name that begins with the letter A through L —**

**Send a check made out to AARTA to: Cheri Sager, 512 Oak Crest Dr., North Aurora, IL 60542**

**Last name that begins with M through Z —**

**Send a check made out to AARTA to: Ann Luker, 1089A Woodridge Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554**

**Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**\$20.00**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

# December Luncheon

Come, enjoy songs of the season on December 7 when our program will include a choir from Marmion Academy directed by Bryan Birch.

We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens, and socks for Communities in Schools to distribute throughout Aurora, and we will be having our cookie exchange that day.

Bring a guest — a non-member retired teacher would be wonderful, but we look forward to seeing your friends and families as well.

Make your reservations by Friday, November 26.

*All current Covid 19 protocols will be followed.*

