

# HEAReporter

Volume 15 Issue 7

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

January 2021

## President's Message

**Candy L. Gale**

**Happy New Year!** We survived a year of mask wearing, extra handwashing, and social distancing, yet we know that we need to continue these practices in 2021. We hope that following CDC guidelines and increasing numbers of vaccinations will lead us to a safer, healthier new year. We send best wishes for continued recovery to our members and families who have been touched by the pandemic.

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to exercise more? Join us on January 20 at 10:00 am to learn all about **Silver Sneakers**. Michelle Sussman from the Bob Sierra YMCA in Carrollwood will tell us about the free offerings and give suggestions for additional healthy activities. Wear your workout clothes and headband, show us your home gym and free weights, or bring your 2-lb hand weights or "dumbbells" to the screen.

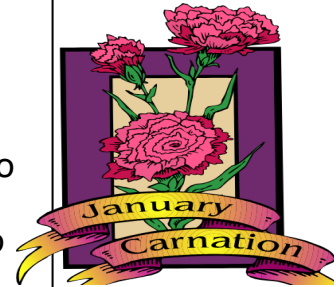
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89076409529>

We enjoyed a virtual party on December 9 that included fancy hats, holiday sweaters, celestial events, a variety of holidays, and memories of student gifts and parties. We hope that everyone was able to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, no matter how socially distanced.

**Dale Sena** detailed the **2020 Innovative Grants** at the party. The 21 projects chosen included the following: science vocabulary game cards, bucket drums for rhythm and beats, books of student poems and essays, groceries for food science classes, apps for students to mix their own music, and a digital art program. Many thanks to Dale and her evaluation committee volunteers, **Jackie Cross, Norma Goff, Sue Huttig, Gail Hutton, and Russ Patterson**. Sign up for next year to learn more.

You may reach me at (813) 317-7660

Email: [cigid@me.com](mailto:cigid@me.com)



## Happy Birthday!

01 Nancy Thomas
03 Connie Snyder
04 Catherine Paunov
08 Evangeline R. Best
08 Mildred Dubose
08 Elizabeth Lynch
09 Stephen Tabin
14 Susan Key
15 Barbara Berckley
15 Thomas McPeck
15 Joann Myers
15 Carolyn Lee Pierce
17 Yvonne Wilson
20 Carol Engstrom
20 Abba Gayle Schmidt
22 Sam Rosales
24 Barbara Mitchell
25 Beverly Johnson
25 Belinda Stanley
26 Emma Donofry
26 Candy Gale
26 Regina T. Grandner
26 Virginia H. Roebuck
31 Fred Brewer

Do you know any new retirees? Ask them to join HEA-R and send a check for \$56 to Merrilyn Crosson at 1708 Woodbine Drive, Brandon, FL 33510.

Email [Crossonmerrilym@gmail.com](mailto:Crossonmerrilym@gmail.com) for information on a lifetime membership.

**Educational employees** are listed as **frontline essential workers** in CDC guidelines and need to be safely vaccinated. **Call 850-717-9337** and tell the governor to restore them to the state priority list. Many of us are 65 to 74 years old but we hopefully agree with the CDC that frontline essential workers are a higher priority. Tell the governor that he was wrong to change the order to the CDC. Email [GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com)

**Educating from the Heart** is a podcast with stories from school employees coping with this challenging school year. Go to [FEA.org](http://FEA.org) to sign up for emails and podcasts.

### **Coming Attractions...**

Feb. 17 SHINE with Senior Connection Center, zoom  
Mar 17 USF Botanical Gardens (zoom?)  
April 21 Dr Laymon Hicks (tentative)  
May 19 HCTA Staff Appreciation with some creative box lunches!

**New Member**  
Patricia Mulholland

We had so much fun at the party that folks forgot to send in their volunteer hours. You can still send hours from November 19 to December 9th to **Jim Roney** at 813-205-5669 or [jimroney53@gmail.com](mailto:jimroney53@gmail.com).

**We welcome you and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!**

## Community Outreach

**Beth-El Farmworker Ministry** continues to serve their community during these difficult times. Go to <https://beth-el.org/donate/> or send a check to Beth-El at 18240 US 301, Wimauma, FL 33598. Their website has articles on last summer's "camp at home" boxes, a change in Thanksgiving dinner, and many past volunteer activities. To donate items see their Winter Wish List on the website and take your purchases to HCTA. Susan Buchanan will deliver the items to Wimauma.

**OASIS** was organized by school social workers to provide gently used clothing to children. Please consider a financial donation at this time for [www.oasis-](http://www.oasis-)

Remember the wonderful "Back to School" brunch held in August 2019? We couldn't do that this year but HEA-R did win a grant from FEA to cover the cost of lunches and mailing an invitation to all new retirees. The board suggested meeting at a Julian Lane Park shelter like we did for a 2018 picnic. Board members can bring extra tables and chairs for plenty of social distancing if still necessary.

**Motion: Provide an outdoor catered lunch in August 2021 for new retirees.**

We plan to vote on this motion at our January 20th meeting. Bring your questions and suggestions then, or call and email Candy or Jim.