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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES 2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathleen Berens Bucki to Serve Third Term as Board Chair

At the January meeting of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees, **Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS** was re-elected chair of the board for a one-year term. Ms. Bucki is a school librarian and works as a substitute teacher in the Ken-Ton School District. She resides in Amherst.

Kimberly Johnson was re-elected vice chair for a one-year term. Ms. Johnson is a senior billing account clerk with the Erie County Probation Department. She resides in Buffalo.

Joel C. Moore, Esq. was elected secretary for a one-year term. He most recently served as treasurer. Mr. Moore is an associate court attorney in Erie County Surrogate's Court. He resides in Buffalo.

Alan J. Bedenko, Esq. was elected treasurer for a one-year term. He most recently served as secretary. Mr. Bedenko is a partner at Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, PC. He resides in Clarence.

Executive Committee members, along with Board Chair Berens Bucki and Vice Chair Johnson, are: **Sheldon M. Berlow**, associate broker, Pyramid Brokerage Company; **Katie Burd**, Kenmore Village trustee, and **Elaine M. Panty**, retired City of Buffalo Water Authority employee.

Additional trustees serving the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board include:

- **Michael Amodeo, Esq.**, confidential law clerk to Hon. Mark A. Montour, JSC;
- **Lucy A. Candelario**, executive director, The Belle Center;
- **Carima El-Behairy**, director of operations & development, Buffalo Heritage Carousel;
- **Frank Gist**, owner, Greater Buffalo Bail Bond Agency and feature columnist, Buffalo Criterion News;
- **Frank Housh, Esq.**, owner, Housh Law Offices, PLLC;
- **Theodore K. Johnson**, president, Hadley Exhibits, Inc.; and
- **Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.**, retired attorney, Hodgson Russ LLP.

Trustee emeriti are W. Lawrence Buck, Jack Connors, Richard O. Hopkins, the Hon. Salvatore R. Martoche and Rebecca L. Pordum.

Mary Jean Jakubowski is Library System Director.

All Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are open to the public with mask wearing and social distancing protocols in place. Programming highlights in 2021 include the new "*B is for Book: Children's Stories through the Centuries*" exhibit at the downtown Central Library, the virtual Winter Reading Challenge for children, teens, adults and classrooms, running now through March 5, and a virtual winter campout-themed "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on Saturday, February 6. The Library hosts the weekly virtual "IMAGINE Buffalo" lecture series on Tuesdays and "Lunchtime Learning" programs on topics ranging from Black History Month to Women's History Month, budgeting and financial wellness, researching family history and more.

In 2020, despite being closed for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, representing 37 libraries and the *Library on Wheels* bookmobile, circulated over 4.43 million materials including over 1 million eBooks and eAudioBooks. There were 6.5 million website visits and more than 1.25 million in-library visits. The Library System has over three million materials available for borrowing including books, eBooks, DVDs, CDs, downloadable music and more. Library card applications can be submitted online from the website at <https://www.buffalolib.org/library-cards> or can be picked up at any of the local public libraries. For more information about Library hours, programs, downloadable music and books, databases and more, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

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