## Holiday greetings from your Erie County PASR!

While it's true some traditions may have to be adjusted this year, some perennial favorites will still anchor us. Like everyone else, I look forward to the yearly airing of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story." Like everyone else, I will shed a few tears when George Bailey realizes he already has everything he could ever wish for in life, and I will rejoice when Ralphie finds his heart's desire under the Christmas tree. (Ok, technically, behind the desk!) And . . . like everyone else, I will get hooked on a few Hallmark movies as well.

These movies follow a pattern most people recognize from their own experience. Usually the main characters are in a dark place at the beginning of the story. A parent has died; an engagement has ended; a life dream seems unattainable. We watch compassionately as they tentatively seek a happier, brighter existence, finally finding the place where the world glows again. The light that makes it glow is hope and love in every case!

This year has certainly been one in which we all have been challenged to remain cheerful and hopeful. Even though we have a number of ways to communicate with each other, we can probably all relate to feeling isolated and overcome at times by the circumstances that have shadowed this past year. Now we have reached the season when mankind traditionally renews its search for peace and love and reaches for the light of compassion and hope. It seems quite significant to me that in this year of all years we will be able to view a rare heavenly phenomenon in the latter part of December!

Consider this report by Chanel Vargas: "As 2020 comes to a close, the solar system has decided to grace us with a cosmic Christmas miracle that hasn't been witnessed in nearly 800 years. On December 21... Jupiter and Saturn will align so closely in the night sky that they'll almost appear to collide from our vantage point here on Earth, creating a radiant point of light often referred to as the 'Star of Bethlehem' or the 'Christmas Star'." Such an alignment, creating such a bright star, has not happened since the year 1226.

A rare year is culminating in a rare event that will shine a bright light on this planet. Let's absorb that light and reflect it in our comings and goings. May you and yours enjoy a safe and peaceful holiday!

Connie Walker and the PASR Board