

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

A Message from Your

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Founders Day Over 120 years ago, more than 2,000 parents, teachers and legislators gathered together in Washington, D.C., to start the hard work to better the lives of children. We celebrate the beginnings of the National Parent-Teacher Association each February by gathering our community together to recognize everything we, as a community, have worked together to accomplish and to affirm our dedication to what they started so long ago. Helen Keller once said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." This idea embodies the PTA – nationally, regionally, locally and especially in our community of Hicksville.

The mission and goals of that first meeting by our founders, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Alice McLellan Birney and Selena Sloan Butler, and are still at the heart of what we do each day – as a parent, a teacher, a staff member, an administrator and a community member. By working together, we are making a difference in every student's life and future.

As we observe Founders Day for the 67th time with our annual Founders Day Dinner on Feb. 27, we celebrate the dedication and commitment of our honorees and all our members who have given so much time and energy to all the children in Hicksville. They continue with our heartfelt tradition of children and community first. Thank you for all that you do, and congratulations to all our incredible honorees.

This year's District Honored Guest is someone who embodies the tireless dedication and time given to our students. It is with my sincerest admiration and gratitude that I congratulate Irene Carlomusto as our District Honored Guest. Irene is someone who gives our students and community a voice at the table and lends her years of PTA and community experience to those that need it. She sits on countless Board of Education committees and still serves as council delegate even though her youngest child has graduated from the district. She has served as PTA president with the Burns Avenue Elementary School PTA, Hicksville Council of PTAs, Hicksville High School PTSA and Hicksville Middle School PTSA. Irene gave enormous energy while serving in several positions within the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association, Hicksville American Soccer Club and Long Island Junior Soccer League. She also served as treasurer in the North West Civic Association. Irene's dedication to our community is endless. She truly puts the Hicksville community and our students first. Thank you, Irene, for everything you do for our children, and congratulations.

Along with Mrs. Carlomusto, we will be honoring the many individuals throughout the district whose service goes above and beyond expectations, and has earned them the distinction of a being a Founders Day honoree from their respective PTA units. I am proud to be your president of the Hicksville Council of PTAs and to be a part of this great community. Your dedication to our children, school and community is to be applauded. Congratulations to all our 2020 Founders Day honorees!

Sincerely,
Diana Faria

Introducing...the 2020

PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

BURNS AVENUE

Jade Britto
Carolina Molina
Jennifer Roth
Fran Zah

DUTCH LANE

Cathy O'Neill
Stephanie Sullo
Marissa Weih

EAST STREET SCHOOL

Susan Farrell
Jessica Ficke
Laura McFarland
Denise McGann

FORK LANE

Michelle Jeannette
Corrine Masterson
Alicia Pena
Gabriella Peterson
Adrienne Rosenberg
Diana Scala

LEE AVENUE

Hannah Accardo
Anne Cafora
Karissa Calamari
Lora Elsirgany
Suzanne Minutoli
Melinda Space
Veronica Sylvia

OLD COUNTRY ROAD

Melissa Butler
Laura Cataldo
Lauren Degen
Tina Noonan

WOODLAND

Theresa Aulman-Viola
Danielle Catapano
Phyllis McMullan
Zeba Ramos
Patricia Vollmer

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Linda Guerriere
Nicholas Naccarato
Carol Ruda
Todd Wallace
Jennifer Williams

HIGH SCHOOL

Jeannette Artiga
Annette Beiner
Joel Cardoza
Wendy Constantinides
Angela Galante
Josephine Rocco

SEPTA

Mary Ospina
Kristen Pirozzi
Lisa Robertaccio

Congratulations to all our honorees!!!

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year's PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is Irene Carlomusto. She is being recognized for her outstanding involvement in the community and for her commitment to the students of the district. To learn more about Ms. Carlomusto and her accomplishments, see page 2.

District Honored Guest



IRENE CARLOMUSTO

Congratulations to Irene Carlomusto, the 2020 Founders Day Honored Guest, who has been an active and proud PTA mom in the Hicksville School District for nearly 20 years! This is the sixth time Irene is being recognized on Founders Day, having been honored at every school her children have attended. She received Founders Day honors from Burns Avenue Elementary School, and both the Middle and High schools, as well as the Honorary Life Award from Burns Avenue and the prestigious Golden Oak Award – the district’s Honorary Life Award.

Irene is the current council delegate and past president at the High School. She’s been a council delegate at every unit level, including for SEPTA. Irene has also left her mark as a chair on numerous schoolwide

and district committees, including Communications, Founders Day, homecoming, Policy and PTA Scholarships. As a parent representative of the Shared Decision-Making Committee, Irene took part in interviews that resulted in the hiring of many fine teachers who to this day are making a positive impact on students.

“I have been so blessed throughout my volunteer journey to have worked alongside others who share my passion and beliefs,” Irene said. “Some of my best friendships have been made through my volunteer experiences. Some of my best memories are the smiles on the children’s faces, from elementary school right on through to their high school graduation.”

Born in Southampton and raised in Flushing, Queens,

Irene graduated from Queens College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting before marrying her husband, Thomas. They moved to Hicksville in 1992 and have since raised three wonderful daughters, all Hicksville High School graduates. After graduating from Cornell University, daughter Michelle moved out to the West Coast. Her younger daughters, Jessica and Nina, are currently attending college a little closer to home, Jessica at Farmingdale State University and Nina at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In addition to the family roots established here, and the enormous impact her work has had on Hicksville’s schools, Irene has volunteered her time working with others to touch additional aspects of the community. For 10

years she used her accounting background to serve as treasurer for the Northwest Civic Association. For as much time, she worked as a coordinator for the Long Island Junior Soccer League and as a coach, director and board member for the Hicksville American Soccer Club.

“The things we are able to provide and do for our children are priceless, and this is the reason why I continue to do what I do,” Irene added. “I believe together we can accomplish so much more than what we do as individuals.”

BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



JADE BRITTO

Jade Britto: Jade served as council delegate from 2017-2018, recording secretary from 2018-2019 and vice president from 2019 to the present for the Burns Avenue Elementary School PTA. She also sat on various committees and chaired multiple events. The first-time Founders Day honoree has been a New York City public school teacher for the past 12 years and works at PS 239 in Ridgewood, Queens, as a fourth grade teacher. “It’s truly an honor to be acknowledged for this event, but the main reason why I do it is to see all of the children come together and have fun with their friends and family.” Jade has lived in Hicksville for the past six years and has two children, Eriyah and Gianna.



CAROLINA MOLINA

Carolina Molina: Carolina is a devoted wife and mother who came to Burns Avenue Elementary School five years ago, even before her daughter started kindergarten! Since joining the PTA, she has given 150% to the school’s children and programs. Carolina has launched many different programs as PTA president, including the kickline team, field day shirts and a program that brings high schoolers to the building to assist with events and childcare during the monthly PTA meetings. She always encourages parents to get involved and is always there to lend a helping hand and find new ways to make events special for children. Carolina has a loving, caring heart and truly does it all for the children of Burns Avenue.



JENNIFER ROTH

Jennifer Roth: Jennifer has been an English as a new language teacher at Burns Avenue Elementary School for the past four and a half years. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including Culture Committee, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Sunshine. Jen has also taught in the school’s summer school program, having piloted the Newcomer ENL class this past summer. Jen holds a master’s degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages from Long Island University. In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her husband, Steve, and two children, Evan and Jocelyn. They enjoy playing games and traveling together. “It is an honor to be recognized. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work here in Hicksville!”



FRANCES ZAH

Frances Zah: After working in a special education classroom as a teacher aide for two years, Frances was encouraged by teachers she worked with to pursue her teaching assistant certification. Upon completion, she started a new position in the Hicksville School District. This is her third year at Burns Avenue Elementary School and her second year working with pre-K students. This is Frances’ first Founders Day recognition, and for that she is extremely humbled. “I am very lucky to work with such an amazing group of people at Burns Avenue. I love my work family.” She wakes each day with a grateful heart and believes that a little kindness goes a long way. Frances lives in Levittown with her husband, Edward, and beautiful children, Madison and Matthew, and fur baby, Loki.

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*

Cathy O’Neill: Cathy is vice president of the Dutch Lane Elementary School PTA. She has sat on various committees, including Field Day, Penny Auction and Talent Show. The first-time Founders Day nominee attended Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville and later college. She has worked as a general manager for Old Navy for the past 17 years. “It’s an honor to be recognized, but I am part of the PTA to help my children and their classmates understand the importance of education and that school is a fun place to be.” Cathy has lived in Hicksville with her husband, Andrew, for the past 19 years. They have a daughter, Keara, who is a freshman at Holy Trinity High School, and twin sons, Aiden and Darren, who attend Dutch Lane.



CATHY O’NEILL

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School* (continued)



STEPHANIE
SULLO

Stephanie Sullo: Stephanie has worked in the Hicksville Public Schools at Dutch Lane Elementary School for the past 23 years and has been the Dutch Lane PTA liaison since the beginning of her Hicksville career. This is the second time she has been honored on Founders Day. The first was exactly 20 years ago, by the Dutch Lane PTA. During her time at Dutch Lane, Stephanie sat on numerous committees, including Board of Education Policy, Curriculum, Districtwide Safety Committee, Professional Development and Site Based. She teaches fifth grade and enjoys every minute she spends in her classroom. No matter how old her students become or how far they roam from Hicksville, each and every one of them will always be one of her "kids." Stephanie is the president of the Hicksville Congress of Teachers and works in conjunction with the Board of Education, administrators, parents, faculty and staff to ensure Hicksville continues to be a place of which everyone can be proud.



MARISSA
WEIH

Marissa Weih: Marissa has been volunteering her time to the PTA for over six years, chairing various committees, including Books Alive, Bulletin Board and Gift Wrap. She also holds a position on the board as a council delegate. The first-time Founders Day honoree is a graduate of Hicksville High School and Dutch Lane Elementary School. She has worked as a teacher assistant at Dutch Lane for the last three years. Marissa feels this is a great and unexpected honor that means so much to her. She is very proud to give back her time to the children of Dutch Lane so that they leave with the same wonderful memories she has of going there.

EAST STREET *Elementary School*



SUSAN
FARRELL

Susan Farrell: Susan has worked in the district as a teacher for 22 years. She taught at Woodland Elementary School and East Street elementary schools, teaching kindergarten at East the past 16 years. Susan has participated in various school committees, including Datwise, Memorial Day, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Souper Bowl, at East Street. Her brightest moment was when she was asked to participate in the Long Island Children's Institute by Lisa Estrada and present with her English as a new language co-teacher, Krysten Stehle, on using technology to enhance language instruction in the classroom. In her spare time, Susan loves spending time with her husband, Steve, of 13 years and daughters, Ryan and Shannon. "Thank you so much for this honor. It's so wonderful to work with so many amazing people every day!" Susan lives in West Sayville near the beach, her favorite place.



JESSICA
FICKE

Jessica Ficke: Jessica has been a full-time employee of the Hicksville School District for the past four years. Before being hired as a full-time teacher, she worked as a per diem substitute in all of the elementary schools and as a leave replacement at Dutch Lane and Old Country Road elementary schools. She has previously taught fifth grade at Burns Avenue and fourth grade at East Street, where she currently teaches kindergarten. Jessica has served on various committees, including the East Street Site Based Committee and the Shared Decision-Making Committee. She has also participated in the Elementary Summer Academic Program, the Extended Day Program and the Extended School Year Special Education Summer Program. "As a first-time Founders Day honoree and Hicksville graduate, it is a privilege to serve the community I grew up in." Jessica lives in Hicksville with her family.



LAURA
MCFARLAND

Laura McFarland: Laura has been a part of the East Street Elementary School PTA since 2014. She has chaired various PTA committees, including Fifth Grade Committee and School Apparel Sale. She has served as class mom every year from kindergarten through fifth grade. The first-time Founders Day honoree worked for Guess Handbags for over 22 years. "It is such an honor to be recognized among such dedicated volunteers. I'm just happy knowing that my efforts have helped to make the children's elementary experience a memorable one." Originally from Queens, Laura has lived in Hicksville since 2001. She loves spending time with her husband, Brian, and their daughter, Olivia.



DENISE
MCGANN

Denise McGann: Denise has been a teaching assistant at East Street Elementary School for 17 years. For the last 12, she has worked side by side with Mrs. Shurley and her kindergarten classes. The first-time Founders Day honoree graduated from Hofstra University and lives in Wantagh with her husband, Tom. They have four children and two grandchildren. Denise is honored by this recognition and thoroughly enjoys guiding students throughout the school year.

FORK LANE *Elementary School*



MICHELLE
JEANNETTE

Michelle Jeannette: Michelle has taught English as a new language at both Fork Lane and Lee Avenue elementary schools since 2015. During that time, she has served in various roles, including as a Books Alive committee member, teacher for the Extended Day program and presenter at Parent-Student University. The first-time Founders Day honoree enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading and going to the beach. "It is truly an honor to be recognized at the Founders Day celebration. It is a privilege to be working in a district with such amazing colleagues, students, parents and administrators." Michelle lives in Mineola with her husband, Kevin, with whom she has two daughters, Claire and Emily.



CORRINE
MASTERSON

Corrine Masterson: Corrine has been an active member of the Fork Lane Elementary School PTA since 2011, serving as corresponding secretary and chairing committees such as Holiday Boutique, Plant Sale and School Store. She now co-chairs the Fifth Grade Committee for the Class of 2020. The first-time Founders Day honoree formerly worked as an insurance fraud investigator for State Farm. For the last six years, she has worked as a teaching assistant at Hicksville Middle School. "I am honored to be recognized and feel lucky to work with such amazing students, staff and parents, who have all made my time at Fork Lane so memorable." A resident of Hicksville since 2001, Corrine lives with her husband, Dennis, and their three children, Aidan, Jake and Riley.

FORK LANE *Elementary School* (continued)



ALICIA
PENA

Alicia Pena: Alicia served as a recording secretary and then as a counsel delegate on the PTA for Fork Lane Elementary School for the past two years. She has sat on various committees, as well as chaired events, including Art Expo Night, Field Day, the annual Halloween Dance, homecoming and multiple fundraisers. The first-time honoree attended East Meadow High School and Nassau Community College, and works as a paralegal for the Law Office of Michael Garron. "It is an honor to be recognized, but it is a group effort, and I am fortunate to have the help and support from so many amazing parents. The reason I do what I do is for the opportunity to see how happy it makes the students and the gratification it gives me to see their smiling faces." Alicia has lived in Hicksville for the past eight years with her husband, Steve, with whom she has two sons, Dante and Derek.



GABRIELLA
PETERSON

Gabriella Peterson: Gabriella has been an employee at the Fork Lane Elementary School for the past 16 years. She is a lunch monitor and assists teachers in the classroom. Gabriella enjoys helping children and seeing the smiles on their faces. She has been a resident of Hicksville for the past 29 years and lives with her husband, Bruce, with whom she has two sons, Brian and Erik. This is Gabriella's first Founders Day recognition, and she is very proud of the work she does in the classroom and lunchroom. Working in the Hicksville School District over the years has provided Gabriella an excellent opportunity to witness the next generation prosper.



ADRIANNE
ROSENBERG

Adrienne Rosenberg: Adrienne has been a special education teacher in Hicksville for 38 years. She began her career at Dutch Lane Elementary School teaching in a self-contained class for 14 years. She then taught a self-contained class at Fork Lane Elementary School and later became a resource room teacher, working with grades K-5. Adrienne is currently an integrated co-teacher who has taught multiple grades. She has participated in many committees, including Books Alive, Curriculum Council, Math Olympiads, Safety Committee and Site Based. She has mentored newly hired teachers and student observers. Adrienne has been honored for Founders Day by Dutch Lane, Fork Lane and SEPTA. She thanks her family as well as her Fork Lane family for their support through the years.



DIANA
SCALA

Diana Scala: Diana has been involved in the Fork Lane Elementary School PTA for four years and has served as a delegate, corresponding secretary and recording secretary. She has chaired various events, including Back to School Night, Book Fair, homecoming and Pre-K Orientation, and also serves as a Girl Scout troop leader. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "I enjoy doing things for the children in our school, and I feel so grateful and honored to be recognized." She holds an information systems degree from Fordham University and works in compliance for Capital One. Diana and her husband, Joe, have two daughters, Lia and Marisa.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



HANNAH
ACCARDO

Hannah Accardo: Hannah attended her first Lee Avenue Elementary School PTA meeting in 2016 and served as a council delegate for two years before being elected corresponding secretary in 2019. This first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, such as Book Fair and Reading Is Fundamental, and enjoys helping out with graduations and yearbook and volunteering as a class mom. "I am honored to be recognized. It's been such a privilege to get to know and work alongside so many wonderful parents and teachers to help all these amazing kids." Hannah and her husband, Ralph, a Hicksville High School graduate, have been married 17 years and have two boys, Dominic and Giovanni.



ANNE
CAFORA

Anne Cafora: Anne has been a district employee for the past five and a half years as a teacher assistant at Lee Avenue Elementary School and is also a member of the PTA. The first-time Founders Day honoree lives in Plainview with her husband, Neil, and is the mother of two boys, Justin and Ryan. "I take great pride in working with the wonderful teachers and children at Lee Avenue and am extremely honored to be recognized this evening."



KARISSA
CALAMARI

Karissa Calamari: Karissa Calamari has taught English as a new language at Lee Avenue Elementary School for the last five years. During that time, Karissa has also been a member of Lee Avenue's Safety Committee, a teacher at the Extended Day program and a coach of the Hicksville Middle School kickline team. The first-time Founders Day honoree lives in Bay Shore, and in her spare time, she enjoys going to the beach and spending time with family and friends. "It is an honor to be your children's teacher each day, and even more of an honor to be recognized as one of Lee Avenue's [Founders Day award] recipients. Thank you so much. It means the world to me!"



LORA
ELSIRGANY

Lora Elsirygany: Lora has been the recording secretary of the Lee Avenue Elementary School PTA for the past two years. This is her first Founders Day recognition. She was instrumental in establishing the morning SCOPE program for the district. She volunteers her time fundraising, chairs the PTA Reflections contest and advocates for improvements throughout the district. Lora and her husband, Yussef, have two daughters who attend Lee Avenue in the first and fourth grade. "I am very proud that my children have the opportunity to learn in a diverse community with truly amazing, dedicated teachers and administrators and a school board which enriches curriculum and improves the facilities."

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



SUZANNE
MINUTOLI

Suzanne Minutoli: Suzanne has been the morning greeter at Lee Avenue Elementary School for four years. She is humbled to have been selected as one of the Founders Day honorees. On any given day at Lee Avenue, you can hear Suzanne saying any one of the following: "Good morning!", "How may I help you?", "Do you have photo ID?", "I know! You want me to call home because you forgot your glasses again!" or "I'm calling because your child is not in school." Her days are filled with many good times with plenty of smiles and laughter. Suzanne is a retired Catholic school teacher. She taught sixth grade math, health, science, reading and religion for 30 years. Her loves have always included God, her family, her friends, kids and photography. Suzanne finds truth in these words by Flavia: "And what is as important as knowledge?" asked the mind. 'Caring, and seeing with the heart,' answered the soul."



MELINDA
SPACE

Melinda Space: Melinda has been an active member of the Lee Avenue Elementary School PTA for the past six years. She has served as president and chairperson for many committees, including Bake Sale, Holiday Boutique, homecoming and Lee Day. Melinda's inspiration comes from seeing the smiles on the children's faces. She is a team player who is always willing to lend a hand – and a smile – whenever called upon. Melinda and her husband, Bill, are the proud parents of four children, Brandon, Kaitlyn, Kylie and Will. She is honored to be chosen as a Founders Day honoree. When she is not volunteering her time with PTA, Melinda serves as a troop leader for Girl Scouts as well as a billet host and fully enjoys watching her children do what they love!



VERONICA
SYLVIA

Veronica Sylvia: Veronica has been a school media specialist at Lee Avenue Elementary School for the past four years. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has organized Bedtime Story Night, Expo Night for RISE students and poetry contests, as well as volunteering for trivia challenges, Scrabble tournaments and the Dr. Seuss Read-a-Thon. She is especially proud of some of her students being selected as winners in the Nassau County Library Association's Freedom to Read Essay Contest. In her spare time, Veronica enjoys coaching her daughter's volleyball and track teams and spending time with family and friends. "I am so honored to be selected as a Founders Day honoree. Teaching is a career change for me, and I'm so happy to have found a home at Hicksville. I love to pass my love for reading and researching to the students." Veronica lives in Mineola with her husband, Fred, and two children, Camille and Jack.

OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



MELISSA
BUTLER

Melissa Butler: Melissa has been teaching art in Hicksville for the past 13 years. Throughout her career, Melissa has taught at Burns Avenue, Fork Lane and Lee Avenue elementary schools, the Middle School and High School, and currently at Woodland and Old Country Road elementary schools. Melissa decorates the halls and bulletin boards with beautiful artwork throughout the year. "I am so incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work with the students and amazing staff at Old Country Road School. They are like a second family to me, and I look forward to coming to work each day. I am truly honored to be this year's recipient. It means so much to me." She resides in East Patchogue with her husband, Ed, and daughter, Juliana.



LAURA
CATALDO

Laura Cataldo: Laura has served as the recording secretary for Old Country Road Elementary School, PTA Council and the Middle School, has been a council delegate and has co-chaired various committees from 2013 to the present, including Fifth Grade, Founders Day, Scholarship and Spirit Wear. Additionally, Laura sits on the board of directors for the Hicksville Crusaders. The first-time Founders Day honoree is a Hicksville High School graduate. She teaches kindergarten and has been working at PS 131 in Jamaica Estates for the past 15 years. "It is such an honor to receive this award. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to be involved in my children's schools and our community. It's amazing working with the parents at OCR ... we are a great team!" Laura lives in her childhood home with her husband, Billy, and their four sons, John, Paul, Ryan and Will.



LAUREN
DEGEN

Lauren Degen: Lauren has been an elementary teacher in the district for the past six years. During that time, she taught third and fourth grade at Dutch Lane and Old Country Road elementary schools. The first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on various committees, including the Elementary Reading and Social Studies Curriculum Task Force. She was a PTA liaison during her time at Dutch Lane. When not teaching, Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to work closely with the students and families of the Hicksville School District, and to be recognized for that work is truly an honor!"



TINA
NOONAN

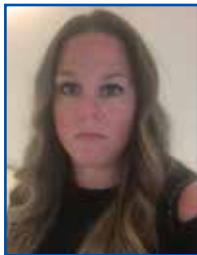
Tina Noonan: Tina Noonan is a mother of three. Two of her children attend Hicksville High School and one attends Old Country Road Elementary School. Previously, she served the St. Ignatius Loyola School PTA for seven years. Tina was also a representative for the National Strength and Conditioning Association for her daughter's cheer team for the Crusaders. She has been a member of Old Country Road's PTA for three years and has chaired many different events, from Father's Day Kickball to the weekly school store. This is her first year as a council delegate and her first time being honored for Founders Day.

WOODLAND *Elementary School*



**THERESA
AULMAN-VIOLA**

Theresa Aulman-Viola: Theresa (TJ) has been a member of the Woodland Elementary School PTA since 2013 and has enjoyed helping out with everything from Box Tops to Penny Auction to the breast cancer walk and anywhere else she can lend a hand, big or small. This first-time Founders Day honoree is also a Girl Scout leader and CYO track assistant coach and loves working with those fantastic kids! "We have incredible people in this community, and I am so happy to be a part of helping to provide experiences to the next generation, preparing them for all the great things they will achieve. But I'm only able to do it thanks to my amazing support system of family and friends." TJ is a 14-year Hicksville resident, along with her husband, Steve, and children, Garrett and Jillian.



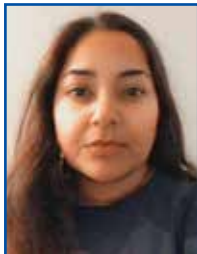
**DANIELLE
CATAPANO**

Danielle Catapano: Since starting in the district three years ago, Danielle has participated in many PTA committees, including chairing Reflections, student dances and Spirit Wear, Bulletin Board, helping out wherever needed. Most recently, she co-chaired the Penny Auction with help from the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce. Danielle has served as council delegate and is currently the recording secretary. She is a first-time Founders Day honoree. "The Hicksville community has become my second family. It's such an honor to be recognized for doing work that I love and enjoy." Danielle is senior vice president at GCI Health, a communications and marketing firm in New York City. Danielle lives in Hicksville with her husband, Vincent, and their two sons, Jack and Ryan.



**PHYLLIS
MCMULLAN**

Phyllis McMullan: Phyllis has been a teacher assistant at Woodland Elementary School for the past 16 years. In that time, the two-time Founders Day honoree has held several positions at Woodland, including working with the second and fifth grade ICT classes and now as a teacher assistant in a 6:1:2 class. Phyllis enjoys traveling with her family and spending summers at the beach with her friends. Phyllis also attended Woodland as a child. "Woodland is forever embedded in my heart and holds a special place in my life. I love working with children and love seeing the smiles on their faces every day." Phyllis and her husband, John, are lifelong Hicksville residents. Together they have three children, Christopher, Danielle and Jason. Phyllis is truly honored to be recognized on Founders Day.



**ZEBA
RAMOS**

Zeba Ramos: Zeba has served as a PTA member for Woodland Elementary School since the 2014-2015 school year and has sat on and chaired various committees, including Box Tops, Fifth Grade, International Night and Winter Wonderland. The first-time Founders Day honoree is Canadian born, raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. She and her husband, Anthony, moved to New York in 2007, and they are the proud parents of three children, Idris, Jannah and newborn Haris. "For the past six years, living in Hicksville has been wonderful! We have an amazing community and I am truly honored to be recognized by the PTA, but most of all I love doing this for my kids. I see how proud they are to see me helping out with their school events."



**PATRICIA
VOLLMER**

Patricia Vollmer: Patricia has been a member of the Woodland Elementary School PTA since 2015. Her children, Gabriel, Jack and Madison, are fifth-generation family members in Hicksville. Her family has always been a huge advocate for the Hicksville community. Patricia returned back to Hicksville eight years ago after living around the country for college and work. She recently partnered with Hicksville Chamber of Commerce members to help support the Woodland Penny Auction. She also developed and manages the Woodland PTA website. She's worked in marketing for 19 years and owns Loud Mktg Studio, which services the technology and sports industries. Patricia cites her main accomplishment as showing her family that they can successfully balance work and a family, while still giving back to our community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



**LINDA
GUERRIERE**

Linda Guerriere: Linda has been a PTA member since 2012. This is her second year at Hicksville Middle School, where she is a member of the Site Based team, volunteers at the book fair and sits on several other committees. Linda was previously a member of the Burns Avenue Elementary School PTA, where she served as council delegate and chaired various committees, including Ways and Means and Field Day. She is also a member of the District Shared Decision-Making committee. Linda is a second-time Founders Day honoree and has lived in Hicksville for 14 years with her husband, Lou, and their son, Louis.



**NICHOLAS
NACCARATO**

Nicholas Naccarato: Nicholas has been a technology teacher for the past 26 years at Hicksville Middle School. During his tenure Nicholas has been involved in many different ways, coaching multiple sports and serving as technology coordinator, to name a few. When Nicholas learned he was being recognized on Founders Day for the second time, he was greatly surprised and humbled. Nicholas lives in Lake Grove with his wife, Melissa, and their three children, Emma, Julia and Nicholas. "Thank you to all of my colleagues at the Middle School for all the support over the years."



**CAROL
RUDA**

Carol Ruda: Carol, an alumna and lifelong resident of Hicksville, has been a district employee for eight years, working as a senior typist clerk at Hicksville Middle School. This is her second Founders Day nomination, having been previously nominated from Woodland Elementary School, where she served as vice president and president of the Woodland PTA. "I am incredibly thankful for this wonderful honor! Working in the Middle School allows me to see the world through the eyes of today's youth, teaching me something new every day! To be able to work with students, parents and the staff is an absolute privilege." Carol and her husband, Glenn, have two daughters, Brianna and Alexa.



**TODD
WALLACE**

Todd Wallace: Todd has been a part of the Hicksville School District for the past 12 years and has worked in education for the past 28, currently serving as assistant principal at Hicksville Middle School. He is a member of the district's Policy and Curriculum committees, and was recently appointed the director of continuing education. This is Todd's first time being honored as a Founders Day recipient, and he is very proud to be recognized by members of the school community. While Todd is an avid golfer and enjoys the sun and surf, his greatest joy is spending time with his wife and four children. "I am extremely grateful and humbled by this wonderful honor; it truly means so much to me to be recognized by members of the Hicksville community."

MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Jennifer Williams: Jennifer has been a Hicksville PTA member since 2011. She serves as the Scholastic Book Fair chairperson at Hicksville Middle School and is a volunteer on several other Hicksville Middle School PTA committees. She previously served as treasurer, council delegate and chairperson for the holiday boutique, book fair and plant sale for the Burns Avenue Elementary School PTA. In 2015, Jennifer was honored to receive the Founders Day Award from Burns Avenue. "It's such an honor, privilege and rewarding experience to be recognized for your passion and small role in helping to shape our children's future." Jennifer and her husband, Ken, have two children, Trinity and Matthew.

HIGH SCHOOL



JEANNETTE ARTIGA

Jeannette Artiga: Jeannette has been a district employee at Hicksville High School for 32 years and a Hicksville resident for the last 21 years. She is a first-time Founders Day honoree and is a certified minister/pastor of The Spanish Eastern District Council of the Assemblies of God. Jeannette is grateful for the recognition by the Founders Day honoree committee. "I work with all my heart, especially for all the students, teachers and staff," Jeannette said. She has been married for 44 years and has three daughters, Christine, Lucy and Nancy, and four grandchildren. Jeannette and her husband, Jose, now serve as pastors at Mission Cristiana Bethel Church in Westbury, New York.



ANNETTE BEINER

Annette Beiner: Annette serves as the Hicksville High School PTSA president, Band Parent Association president and council treasurer. In her 13 years on the PTA, she has served as president of the council and Lee Avenue Elementary School PTA, vice president of Hicksville High School PTSA and council, treasurer of Hicksville Middle School PTSA and Lee Avenue PTA and SEPTA delegate. This is her third Founders Day recognition. "I am honored to be recognized for my dedication to this district. Being able to contribute in some way to ensure that all our children always receive all that they should is rewarding within itself." Annette is a personal injury paralegal and has been a Hicksville resident for 22 years. She has been married to her husband, Stephen, for 20 years and they have two children, Carlee and William.



JOEL CARDOZZA

Joel Cardozza: Joel has been a district employee for the past 18 years and has taught ninth and 10th grade global history. In that time, the first-time Founders Day honoree has been an adviser for Natural Helpers and has coached numerous levels of baseball, girls basketball and football. He serves as head coach of the varsity football team, the Comets. Joel has been honored as the student nominee for Teacher of the Year numerous times. In his spare time, Joel loves traveling, fishing and just spending quality time with his family. "Thank you to the PTSA for this incredible honor!" Joel lives in Medford with his wife, Judy, and three kids, Isabella, Joel and Mia.



WENDY CONSTANTINIDIS

Wendy Constantinidis: Wendy served as council delegate for Hicksville High School during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. She has chaired several different committees, including Reflections at the high school for the past four years and one year at the middle school. Wendy also served the Above and Beyond and Staff Appreciation committees and is this year's Founders Day co-chair. In 2018, she chaired a Vendor Fair which raised money toward scholarships for graduating seniors. Wendy has also run bake sales and chaired the Yearbook Committee at Fork Lane Elementary School in 2015. The first-time Founders Day honoree moved to Hicksville in 2010 with her husband, Robert, and their four daughters. "I am beyond honored for this recognition! I am involved for the kids!"



ANGELA GALANTE

Angela Galante: Angela has been an art teacher and PTSA member in Hicksville High School for the past 22 years. She was spilt between the High School and Middle School in 2004 and was a Founders Day honoree that same year. Angela has been the kickline coach, a class adviser and was the National Art Honor Society adviser for 12 years. In addition to teaching, Angela holds the position of director of student activities at Hicksville High School, which she took on three years ago. "It is my passion for teaching art and making a connection with the students that drives me to be involved above and beyond what goes on in my classroom," she said. Angela lives in Glen Cove with her husband, Angelo, and their two children, Antonia and Mario.



JOSEPHINE ROCCO

Josephine Rocco: Josephine has worked at Hicksville High School for 10 years as a secretary in the assistant principal's office and serves as a board member for the Hicksville Secretaries Association. She is a first-time Founders Day honoree and is very proud to be both a Hicksville employee and member of the community. For years, Josie has volunteered her time to help at school events, such as homecoming, Safe Halloween, the Senior Citizen luncheon and prom, Talent for the Troops and the Wellness Fair. She also volunteers at Our Lady of Mercy food pantry, delivering food to senior citizens in the Hicksville community. "It puts a smile on my face to work alongside such outstanding colleagues and educators each and every day," Josie said. "I am so honored to be a Founders Day recipient and truly blessed to have such an amazing family and group of friends." Josie and her husband, Michael, have lived in Hicksville for 30 years. They raised three daughters, Gina, Joanna, and Marietta, all of whom attended the Hicksville Schools. She also has three grandchildren.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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SEPTA



**MARY
 OSPINA**

Mary Ospina: This is Mary's second time as a Founders Day Honoree. Mary is in her second year as Hicksville SEPTA president. She has served on the following committees: Founders Day, Fundraising, Homecoming, Nominating and SEPTA Award and says it is great watching

how excited these students are to be recognized. A 25-year resident of Hicksville, Mary is the mother of four boys, ranging from 6 to 24 years old. She has been an active member of the Hicksville PTA since 2003. She is also the president of East Street Elementary School PTA, her second time, as she has joined each PTA unit as her boys advanced in school. "I have made great friends through the PTA and have gotten to know many wonderful people."

Kristen Pirozzi: Kristen has served the high school as a special education teacher for the past 18 years. She has taught English ICT at every grade, Global and U.S. History ICT, and Life Skills. She is an active member of the Hicksville High School community, serving on committees such as Talent for the Troops and Teacher of the Year and advising numerous clubs. As a first-time Founders Day honoree, Kristen says, "I am both honored and humbled by this nomination. I consider myself fortunate to be able to support students with differing needs. It is a pleasure to help them recognize their strengths and identify ways to build their needs so they feel confident, respected and nurtured when they leave my classroom."



**KRISTEN
 PIROZZI**

Lisa Robertaccio: Lisa has been involved in PTA for 19 years, beginning her work in Woodland. She was involved with the Woodland PTA, and was presented with a Founders Day award twice, also receiving the Honorary Life award. The Hicksville Middle School and Hicksville High School PTAs have also honored her on past Founders Days. Lisa serves as the vice president of Hicksville SEPTA, recently served as the Council treasurer and sat on the Shared Decision-Making Committee for the district. She has chaired numerous committees and enjoys helping with whatever needs to be done. Lisa is married and has two sons who attend SUNY Oswego and Utica College. Her daughter is a sophomore. Lisa's motto is to treat people the way you want to be treated and to always say thank you.



**LISA
 ROBERTACCIO**

A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

<i>Christine Weih</i>	2019	<i>Terrie Perkowski</i>	2003	<i>Patricia Rooney</i>	1987	<i>John McGovern</i>	1971
<i>Susan Strauss</i>	2018	<i>Mike Dunn</i>	2002	<i>Gerald Klein</i>	1986	<i>Felice Stein</i>	1970
<i>Brenda Judson</i>	2017	<i>Rosemary Planz</i>	2001	<i>Arlene Rudin</i>	1985	<i>Marge Giannelli</i>	1969
<i>Dave Bell</i>	2016	<i>Stephen Aronowitz</i>	2000	<i>William Becker</i>	1984	<i>Marion Coffey</i>	1968
<i>William McKee</i>	2015	<i>Pat Love</i>	1999	<i>Nancy Staron</i>	1983	<i>Kathy Janca</i>	1967
<i>Effie Rafaelides</i>	2014	<i>Rose Walker</i>	1998	<i>Lorraine Losche</i>	1982	<i>Geraldine McManus</i>	1967
<i>Janice Fitzgerald</i>	2013	<i>Leslie Mann</i>	1997	<i>William Feigin</i>	1981	<i>Mary Raffa</i>	1966
<i>Carol Foran</i>	2012	<i>Nancy Callari</i>	1996	<i>Dr. Frederick Hill</i>	1980	<i>Louis Millevolte</i>	1965
<i>Dolores Garger</i>	2011	<i>Peggy Theis</i>	1995	<i>Barbara Smith</i>	1979	<i>Donald Abt</i>	1964
<i>Susan Powell</i>	2010	<i>Robert Durso</i>	1994	<i>Shirley Smith</i>	1978	<i>William O'Donnell</i>	1963
<i>Maureen K. Bright</i>	2009	<i>Nancy DeSorbo</i>	1993	<i>Norma Dagna</i>	1977	<i>Mrs. Oliver Foran</i>	1962
<i>Patty Angenbroich</i>	2008	<i>Richard Hogan</i>	1992	<i>Richard Evers</i>	1976	<i>Mrs. M. Polsenski</i>	1961
<i>Donna Clark</i>	2007	<i>Norma Goerke</i>	1991	<i>Muriel Schwartz</i>	1975	<i>Leon Galloway</i>	1960
<i>Nancy Rooney</i>	2006	<i>Terry Moehringer</i>	1990	<i>Lou Penque</i>	1974	<i>Bernard Braun</i>	1959
<i>Deirdre K. Ryan</i>	2005	<i>Charles Wayne</i>	1989	<i>Grace Cranmer</i>	1973	<i>Mrs. Harry Glecker</i>	1958
<i>Marianne Litzman</i>	2004	<i>Carol Marks</i>	1988	<i>Neil McCormack</i>	1972	<i>Mrs. Clinton Foster</i>	1957
						<i>Dr. Erie LeBarron</i>	1956