

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

A Message from Your

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

While speaking to a group of schoolchildren in her global community action program, "Roots and Shoots," noted anthropologist Jane Goodall told them: "Each one of you has a gift. Your gift is your life. Your life has meaning, and what you do each day really does make a difference." I extend the same sentiment to our honorees; the contributions that you, as volunteers, staff and educators, bring to Hicksville is your gift to our children. Together, you are the threads that make up the fabric of this great community of which I am proud to be a member.

It is part of this community's traditions to remember the contributions of those that blazed the trail for us. On February 17, 1897, National PTA founders Alice McLennan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst planned to engage an anticipated group of 200 mothers with their ideas for the betterment of the lives of American children. However, a staggering 2,000 mothers, fathers, teachers and workers arrived to hear and support their vision, and the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in America was born. Founders Day honors their legacy, through which you've all been moved to use your lives in service to our district.

This year, it is our great privilege to recognize as our District Honored Guest someone who not only exemplifies this legacy, but exceeds it with his dedication. Dave Bell, Director of Facilities and Operations, has become an indispensable part of this district in his 13 years with Hicksville Schools. During the long hours that he puts in, he coordinates the safety, maintenance and beautification of our schools and their grounds. He plays an integral role in the planning of our special events such as Homecoming and the Wellness Fair. However, his job doesn't end there. Whether responding to a weather emergency in the middle of the night or a problem in one of his buildings, Dave is often called upon to put in even longer hours to ensure that our schools and parking lots remain safe for students and employees. When asked about being this year's District Honored Guest, he remains characteristically humble and credits the support of his staff, co-workers and the PTA as the reason he's able to do all he does. With sincere gratitude, we thank Dave for his outstanding commitment to the Hicksville community, and for caring for our children as his own.

It has been my great pleasure to meet, volunteer and work with many of our honorees. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all of you, and may you continue to enrich this wonderful community with your gifts.

Introducing...the 2016

PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

BURNS AVENUE:

Lisa Costa
Joy Gambino
Diana Germinario
Maria Pia Negrón
John Sysak

DUTCH LANE:

Jackie Adelstein
Nora Jennings
Shannon Mane
Corinne Pope

EAST STREET:

Anne Corbett
Carol Kornobis
Christina Mirro
Lynda Parmely
Valmer Zuluaga

FORK LANE:

Jennifer Chaplin
Karen Floccari
Christine Janda
Brian McKee
Martha Poursanidou

LEE AVENUE:

Nicole D'Antonio
John Fitzsimons
Francesca Flanagan
Francine Neri
JoAnn Sommerhalter

OLD COUNTRY ROAD:

Mandie Anderson
Dana Garelick
Michelle Koehler
Maria Meenaghan

WOODLAND:

Doris Lyons
Robert Morris
Kelly Sullivan
Kathy Wolowski

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Mara Jorisch
Angela Kobetitsch
Sara Smith
Bridget Stengl

HIGH SCHOOL:

Caitlin Cassidy
Joan Deem
Kim Heihs
Mary Sokenis

SEPTA:

Daniel Gibson
Elizabeth Mustello

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year's PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is **Dave Bell**. He is being recognized for his outstanding involvement in the community and for his commitment to the students of the district. To learn more about Mr. Bell and his accomplishments, see page 2.

District Honored Guest



DAVE BELL

Founders Day 2016's District Honored Guest is Director of Facilities and Operations Dave Bell. Dave came to the district 13 years ago, beginning his career as head custodian at the high school in 2002. Just four years later, his work ethic was recognized and he was promoted to assistant director of facilities and operations. Dave became Director of Facilities and Operations when the position became available in 2008, and has since put his stamp on countless enhancements, facelifts, beautification projects, undertakings, renovations, repairs, upkeep and maintenance. He sits on both the Efficiency Committee and Safety Committee and holds vocational certificates in heating, ventilation and air conditioning from Nassau Technical and Electrical I and Electrical II from Wilson Technical.

"It gives me great pride to have my hard work and dedication to the district appreciated and recognized," Dave said.

"Dave had the courage to take this giant leap [in 2008 to his current position]," Founders Day Chairperson Irene Carlomusto said. "The district encompasses 11 buildings, vast acreage, and a facilities staff between 80 and 100

employees. That entails a great deal of responsibility and requires significant and diverse skills, leadership and knowledge. Dave was willing to not only take on these challenges, but to also accept the responsibility and commitment to learn on the job. The district was fortunate that Dave was in the right place at the right time, and that he has been so willing to embrace the challenges of this significant position. He is most deserving of PTA recognition for his work and commitment."

Dave's favorite memory of Hicksville is first being hired by the district and then working to advance himself, which he accomplished by working tirelessly and challenging himself. He said he lives by a quote his father would say: "Work hard and do the right thing, and everything will fall into place."

He and his wife, Karen, live in Holtsville and have three children, Ashley, Nicholas and Anthony.

BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



LISA COSTA

Lisa Costa: Lisa Costa has been a teaching assistant at Burns Avenue since 2004 and has worked primarily with special education students. The first-time Founders Day honoree said it is an honor to be considered for the recognition, and that one of the best parts of her job is following up with students she worked with years ago and seeing how far they have progressed. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston College and enjoys gardening, cooking, and working on arts and crafts projects in her spare time. She is a single mother to her two children, Matthew and Michelle.



JOY GAMBINO

Joy Gambino: Since 2013, Joy Gambino has sat on the Nominating Children's Activities PTA Committee for Burns Avenue, and since 2014 has been a member of the Auditing Committee. The first-time Founders Day honoree said she's surprised that she was even considered for the recognition because "I do the things I do for the school because I want to, not because I have to." Joy works as an administrative assistant and has lived in Hicksville for 45 years. She and her husband, Joe, have two children, Anthony and Joseph.



DIANA GERMINARIO

Diana Germinario: Diana Germinario has worked in the district at Burns Avenue and Dutch Lane for the last 12 years. Diana, who was also recognized as a Founders Day honoree in 2014, holds a master's degree in art education from LIU Post. In 2010, she was a recipient of the PTA Service Award. She said, "It is an honor to be recognized by the parents of the children I teach and my colleagues. We all share the goal of bringing the arts into our community." Diana is a single mother to her children, Matt and Ashley, and lives in Seaford.



MARIA PIA NEGRÓN

Maria Pia Negrón: Maria Pia Negrón has volunteered her time for various events at Burns Avenue for the past four years, and said she was motivated by seeing how hard the PTA volunteers work for the students. She also said that she enjoys lending a helping hand whenever her schedule allows, and in 2015 joined the PTA as a council representative member. Maria enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, movies and books. She lives in Hicksville with her husband, Jeffrey, with whom she has one son, Jeffrey Vincent.



JOHN SYSAK

John Sysak: John Sysak has sat on the Graduation Committee of the Burns Avenue PTA since 2013, and said that being honored at Founders Day for the first time "shows that people appreciate extra work and dedication." John, who attended Hofstra University, works as a professional land surveyor and has lived in Hicksville for the past 29 years. His passion is birds, and particularly trying to breed the endangered Queen of Bavaria Conure, which is nearly extinct in Brazil. He lives with his wife, Christine, with whom he has three children, John, Nicholas and Samantha.

DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



**JACKIE
ADELSTEIN**

Jackie Adelstein: Jackie Adelstein has been a teaching assistant in the district for the past 32 years, working at the middle school, high school, Fork Lane and Dutch Lane, and has also been a member of the Fork Lane and Dutch Lane PTAs. The first-time Founders Day honoree has been a recipient of the PTA Service Award and believes that "all children deserve the best and come first." She is also secretary of the Teaching Assistants Local Unit for Hicksville. Jackie lives in Hicksville with her husband, Barry, with whom she has two children, Matthew and Michael. She also has four grandchildren, Madison, Zachary, Max and Ryan.



**NORA
JENNINGS**

Nora Jennings: Nora Jennings has been a member of the Dutch Lane PTA since 2010 and has served as its corresponding secretary since 2014. The first-time Founders Day honoree said she is "honored and humbled that my friends thought this highly of me." Nora works as an insurance broker and has lived in Hicksville for the past 14 years. She has also been the recipient of a PTA Service Award from Dutch Lane. She and her husband, James, have one daughter, Teresa.



**SHANNON
MANE**

Shannon Mane: Shannon Mane has served on the Dutch Lane PTA since 2010 and has since 2014 been its vice president. She has sat on every committee of the school's PTA since her children began attending Hicksville schools in 2010. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in special and elementary education from Dowling College and works as a director of account management. She has lived in Hicksville – next door to her grandparents, who are the original owners of their home – for the past six years. She loves to read and is married to her husband, Juan, with whom she has three children, Hailey, Heather and Lucas.



**CORINNE
POPE**

Corinne Pope: Corinne Pope began her career as a permanent substitute teacher at Burns Avenue in 2008 before working in the middle and high schools, and has been teaching kindergarten at Dutch Lane since 2012. She holds a master's degree in childhood education and certificate extensions in early childhood education and English 7-12. Corinne has also sat on several committees of the Dutch Lane PTA and won a PTA Service Award in 2015. The first-time Founders Day honoree said she is humbled and honored to be a part of the celebration. Corinne lives in Westbury with her husband, Vincent.

EAST STREET *Elementary School*



**ANNE
CORBETT**

Anne Corbett: Anne Corbett has served on the East Street PTA for the past five years, and said it is "an honor to be recognized for all of my hard work, but it is all for the children." The committees she has sat on include Miss Chocolate, Joe Corbi Pizza and Kickline at East Street, and she says she enjoys all of them because it is rewarding to help out. Anne works as payroll coordinator for a family-owned electrical company and has lived in Hicksville for 24 years. She is a single mother to her children, Ryan, Carly and Katelyn.



**CAROL
KORNOBIS**

Carol Kornobis: Carol Kornobis has taught at East Street for 13 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education with emphasis in learning disabled students from St. John's University and a master's degree in reading from Adelphi University. She says that she cherishes her time teaching in Hicksville and the lifelong friends she has made in the district. In her spare time, Carol likes to read. She lives in Merrick with her husband of 38 years, Ken, with whom she has four children, Kevin, Kerri, Thomas and Bethann. In January, Carol became a grandmother.



**CHRISTINA
MIRRO**

Christina Mirro: Christina Mirro began her career at East Street in 1997 as a lunch monitor and greeter. Since 2000, she has been a computer teaching assistant, and also enjoys taking photos at school events. The second-time Founders Day honoree – she also won the award in 2000 as a member of the Lee Avenue PTA – said, "It is a great honor to be recognized for the job I love to do." She is also an active member of the Hicksville Garden Civic Association and is co-chairperson of a community service committee that organizes a food and toy drive to help families in need. Christina lives in Hicksville with her husband, Nicholas, with whom she has two children, David and Michelle.



**LYNDA
PARMELY**

Lynda Parmely: Lynda Parmely, an advocate for early childhood development, has chaired and co-chaired several East Street PTA committees since 2011 and works as a program director outside of the home. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "To know that someone took the time to write the letter was more than I expected, and getting the award means that much more." She attended Nassau Community College and Queens College, holds a bachelor's degree in urban studies, and has lived in Hicksville for 13 years. She has a co-parent partner, Matthew Dave, and one son, Marley.



**VALMER
ZULUAGA**

Valmer Zuluaga: Valmer Zuluaga has worked in Hicksville schools for 13 years and has been the head custodian at East Street for the past six. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "It gives me great pleasure to prepare East Street for school activities, and I am happy to be a part of an event where you see children smile." Valmer is fluent in Spanish and likes spending time with his family and cooking. He has lived in Hicksville since 1999 and is married to his wife, Zoraida, with whom he has two sons, Andres and Christian.

FORK LANE *Elementary School*



JENNIFER
CHAPLIN

Jennifer Chaplin: Jennifer Chaplin has been a member of the Fork Lane PTA since 2012 and says that she loves helping with any committee in any way she can. She works as a math teacher at East Meadow High School and was honored at a Founders Day there in 2009. She said she is "honored to be recognized, especially since so many people volunteer their time." Jennifer holds bachelor's degrees in mathematics and general literature from Binghamton University, as well as a master's degree in secondary mathematics from Queens College. She has lived in Hicksville since 1998 and is married to her husband, Ryan, with whom she has two sons, John Ryan and Connor.



KAREN
FLOCCARI

Karen Floccari: Karen Floccari has worked at Fork Lane for the past three years as a secretary in the main office. The first-time Founders Day honoree moved from Queens to Hicksville in 1977, attended Old Country Road, and eventually bought the house she grew up in. She also serves on the Old Country Road PTA. "It's such a wonderful feeling to be recognized for doing a job I enjoy," she said. "It was so unexpected, which is why I am so grateful." Karen and her husband, Anthony, have two children, Keera and Anthony, who both attend Old Country Road. "It puts a smile on my face having both of my children walk through the same halls I did," she said.



CHRISTINE
JANDA

Christine Janda: Christine Janda has taught at Fork Lane for four years and has sat on several committees during that time, including the Wellness Committee and Books Alive Committee. She holds a bachelor's degree in math and computer science and a master's degree in library science from Queens College and LIU Post, respectively. The first-time Founders Day honoree received a technology award for her work with elementary students prior to her career in Hicksville. Christine is a single mother to her daughter, Catherine. "I am very honored to receive this recognition so early in my career in Hicksville," she said.



BRIAN
MCKEE

Brian McKee: Brian McKee has been a member of the Fork Lane PTA for the past three years and has served as its president for the last two. The first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on several committees, including Field Day, Holiday Boutique and Family Fun Night. "It is an honor to be recognized," Brian said. "I am proud to be a part of a school that recognizes student achievements not only academically, but socially through character education." Brian holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Pfeiffer University and is a Hicksville High School graduate. He has lived in Hicksville for the past 39 years and is married to his wife, Amy, with whom he has three children, William, Collin and Emma.



MARTHA
POURSANIDOU

Martha Poursanidou: Since 2009, Martha Poursanidou has sat on various committees for the Fork Lane PTA, including Book Fair, Mother's Day Boutique, Halloween Dance and Bake Sale. "[Being recognized] means a lot because I see that people appreciate what I have done, but I never expected it," the first-time Founders Day honoree said. "It's a wonderful and meaningful surprise." Martha holds a bachelor's degree from Greece and teaches Greek as a second language to prekindergartners in the Greek-American community. She has lived in Hicksville since 2005 and is married to her husband, Stepanos, with whom she has two children, Irene and Harry.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



NICOLE
D'ANTONIO

Nicole D'Antonio: Nicole D'Antonio has taught in Hicksville since 2010, beginning at Fork Lane for one year before coming to Lee Avenue for the past five. The first-time Founders Day honoree has served on various committees, including Curriculum Council, Curriculum Writing ELA Resource Guide and AIS Math Curriculum Writing. Nicole holds a bachelor's degree in childhood education and a master's degree in literacy education, both from LIU Post. "This honor means that someone recognized the talent, time and efforts I put forth for my students and school community," she said. "They recognized my dedication and love for teaching." In her spare time, Nicole likes to read and complete crossword puzzles.



JOHN
FITZSIMONS

John Fitzsimons: John Fitzsimons has worked at Lee Avenue as a cleaner for the past three years, and says he will never forget all of the wonderful staff members who welcomed him to the school with open arms. The first-time Founders Day honoree also said that he is "extremely grateful" for the recognition: "It's truly a great feeling to be recognized for the work I do. I appreciate the smiles from everyone in this district." John holds a certificate in audio engineering from Nassau Community College and lives in Levittown. He is engaged to his fiancée, Angela.

LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



FRANCESCA
FLANAGAN

Francesca Flanagan: Francesca Flanagan has served as treasurer of the Lee Avenue PTA since 2014 and has sat on various PTA committees prior to that, including Bake Sale, Holiday Boutique, Lee Day and Plant Sale. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "It is truly an honor to be recognized at Founders Day. I do the things I do for the children, not the recognition." Francesca works as a special education teacher outside the district, has lived in Hicksville for the past 12 years and likes to travel in her spare time. She and her husband, Michael, have two daughters, Vanessa and Courtney.



FRANCINE
NERI

Francine Neri: Francine Neri has served as vice president of the Lee Avenue PTA for the past two years and has sat on various committees since 2012. "[It is] so touching to think that I had such a positive and significant impact," the first-time Founders Day honoree said. "I am truly grateful." Francine holds a bachelor's degree from Adelphi University and a master's degree from New York University. She founded a practical nursing program and is a professor in the nursing departments at Molloy College and Adelphi University. She also has a passion for cooking and baking. Francine has lived in Hicksville for 18 years and is married to her husband, James, with whom she has four sons, James Jr., Michael, Nicholas and Vincent.



JOANN
SOMMERHALTER

JoAnn Sommerhalter: JoAnn Sommerhalter has worked in Hicksville schools for eight years – one each at East Street and Woodland, and six at Lee Avenue. The first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on many committees, including Wellness Fair, Curriculum Council, Math Night and Trivia. "I deeply appreciate the families of Lee Avenue and my colleagues for their recognition and support," she said. JoAnn holds a master's degree from LIU Post and lives in Oyster Bay with her husband, Fred, with whom she has two children, Matthew and Suzanne.

OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



MANDIE
ANDERSON

Mandie Anderson: Since 2011, Mandie Anderson has sat on numerous Old Country Road PTA committees and has held two separate offices: recording secretary from 2012-2014, and council delegate since 2014. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "Being recognized at Founders Day means that the time I put into the children's happiness is noticed; of course, that makes me feel appreciated." Mandie, who works as a teacher at First Step Nursery School, holds a bachelor's degree in education from Brooklyn College. In her spare time, she likes to read, especially with her daughter. She has lived in Hicksville for 10 years and is married to her husband, Steve, with whom she has one daughter, Savannah.



DANA
GARELICK

Dana Garelick: Dana Garelick has taught the fifth grade at Old Country Road since 2008, and taught at Fork Lane for three years and the middle school for one year prior to that. The first-time Founders Day honoree has sat on numerous committees during her time here, including Career Day, New Teacher Mentors, Scholarship and Math Olympiad. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and journalism from the University of Albany and a master's degree in elementary education from Hofstra University. Aside from teaching, Dana enjoys ballroom dancing and is an intermediate salsa dancer. For the past eight years, she has also taught as an adjunct professor in education in the Graduate School of Curriculum and Instruction at Hunter College. "I feel beyond humbled and honored. It's a wonderful thing to be honored by this community, but my greatest reward comes from my students," she said of her recognition. Dana lives in New York City.



MICHELLE
KOEHLER

Michelle Koehler: Michelle Koehler has taught at Old Country Road for 10 years and has sat on numerous committees during her time, including the Scholarship Committee, New Reading Series Committee, Report Card Committee and Curriculum Council. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who said she is "very honored to receive this recognition," holds a bachelor's degree in education from St. Joseph's College and a master's degree in reading from LIU Post. She is also taking Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages classes through Molloy College. In her spare time, Michelle enjoys traveling. She lives in West Sayville with her husband, Andrew, with whom she has three children, Kathleen, Rachel and Sarah.



MARIA ELENA
MEENAGHAN

Maria Elena Meenaghan: Maria Elena Meenaghan has served as recording secretary and vice president of the Old Country Road PTA from 2010-2012 and 2012-2014, respectively. In that time, she has sat on several committees, including Pre-K Program, Dances, Homecoming, Wreath Sale and Grandparents/Special Person's Day. "It's a wonderful honor," the first-time Founders Day honoree said. "I have been at Old Country Road for 10 years, and being recognized is a way for me to see that the children were happy with how I have helped." Maria has lived in Hicksville for 15 years, works as a medical biller and holds a bachelor's degree from Adelphi University. She and her husband, Terence, have two children, Sara and Shane.

WOODLAND *Elementary School*



DORIS LYONS

Doris Lyons: Doris Lyons has worked as a teaching assistant at Woodland for 11 years. "It is a humbling experience to be recognized by the Woodland community," the first-time Founders Day honoree said. Doris, who holds a bachelor's degree in business from Baruch College, noted that her fondest memories have been created at Woodland because she feels like a major part of students' lives. "It is rewarding to see them grow and achieve throughout the years," she said. Doris has lived in Hicksville for 24 years and is married to her husband, Dennis, with whom she has four children, James, Patricia, Emily and Kelly.



ROBERT MORRIS

Robert Morris: Robert Morris has taught in Hicksville schools for 16 years and is currently at Woodland. The second-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Queens College and a master's degree in education from Hofstra University. "It's a fantastic honor to be recognized," he said. "I've had many friends honored, and I feel privileged to be in that company." One of his hobbies is training in martial arts; he trained in kung-fu for more than five years, was part of a lion dance team during Chinese New Year celebrations, and trained in Filipino knife-fighting for many years. Robert lives in Seaford with his wife, Noreen, with whom he has two children, Jake and Danielle.



KELLY SULLIVAN

Kelly Sullivan: Kelly Sullivan has sat on numerous committees of the Woodland PTA since 2012, including Picture Day, Holiday Party, Plant Sale, Book Fair, Dance Committee and Pre-K. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who has lived in Hicksville her entire life, said, "I think I was in shock for a week after being told [I was being honored on Founders Day]. I am truly honored to be recognized. I enjoy doing things for and with the students, and an award was never the goal. Seeing the students happy is my award." Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mount Saint Mary College. She and her husband, Peter, have four children, Alex, John, Isabel and Katie.



KATHY WOLOWSKI

Kathy Wolowski: Kathy Wolowski has been a secretary for more than 30 years, six of which have been at Woodland. She also sits on the Woodland PTA Committee. The first-time Founders Day honoree said that "a very nice person nominated me for Founders Day, and I appreciate that very much." In her spare time, she likes to go on vacation with her family, and says they somehow always end up on a cruise. Kathy lives in Farmingdale with her husband, Peter, with whom she has two sons, Thomas and Daniel.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



MARA JORISCH

Mara Jorisch: Mara Jorisch has been principal of the middle school for the past seven years, prior to which she was an assistant principal at the high school. As an educator for more than 30 years, she has participated in a number of initiatives and sat on several committees at both the building and district levels. The second-time Founders Day honoree – she was honored by SEPTA in 2013 – said, "I have always been grateful to have the opportunity to work in Hicksville, and my appreciation has grown with each successive year at the middle school. I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from staff members whom I look forward to working with each and every day, and from a PTA that is so dedicated to the students." While the middle school has won her heart, she says that her son, Jordan, continues to be her inspiration and the light of her life. Mara lives in Massapequa.



ANGELA KOBETITSCH

Angela Kobetitsch: Angela Kobetitsch has been a council delegate of the middle school PTA for two years and has since sat on several committees, including Safety, Book Fair, Homecoming, Scholarship and School Dances. The second-time Founders Day honoree – she also received the recognition in 2013 from Lee Avenue – said, "It is an honor to be acknowledged and a privilege to work alongside so many amazing people." Angela is a retired officer with the New York Police Department and holds a bachelor's degree in administration and planning from John Jay College. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and baking. She has lived in Hicksville for 17 years and is married to her husband, Kenneth, with whom she has two daughters, Eva and Katarina.

MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



SARA SMITH

Sara Smith: Sara Smith has taught English at the middle school for more than 10 years and has in that time sat on a number of committees, including Hicksville Reads, Homecoming, District Site Based Team, Wellness Committee, Dances, PTA and National Junior Honor Society. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "[Being honored] is personally meaningful because it recognizes a contribution rather than a performance goal. It is not based on a measurable outcome, but rather on a depth of feeling for my employment. It is a privilege to teach, and an honor to be doing it in Hicksville." Sara attended Boston University and LIU Post, holds bachelor's and master's degrees, and is certified in elementary education, literacy, English 7-12 and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She lives in Bethpage with her husband, Randall, with whom she has two sons, Jeremy and Joshua.



BRIDGET STENGL

Bridget Stengl: Bridget Stengl has taught sixth-grade math at the middle school for nearly 24 years, and during that time has sat on committees including Enrichment Club, Math Olympiad 6th Grade, New Teacher Program and Student Mentor. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "It is gratifying to know that my colleagues and students, as well as their parents, find my style of teaching worth recognizing. It makes what I do every day worthwhile." In her spare time, Bridget enjoys spending time with her family in the summer and traveling to cities throughout the country. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a 6-9 certificate extension in math, and a master's degree in reading. She has been married for 23 years to her husband, Bob, with whom she has three children, Ryan, Colin and Meghan. Both she and Bob grew up in Hicksville.

HIGH SCHOOL



CAITLIN CASSIDY

Caitlin Cassidy: Caitlin Cassidy has taught English and theater at the high school for seven years, and has during that time directed numerous musicals and served as an advisor of the Thespian Society and Natural Helpers. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, "It is wonderful to be recognized by the Hicksville community." Caitlin holds bachelor's degrees in theater and secondary education from Penn State University and a master's degree in 7-12 special education from Queens College. Caitlin's face can be found on LIRR ads for Queens College. She lives in Baldwin and is engaged to be married this summer.



JOAN DEEM

Joan Deem: Joan Deem has taught at the high school since 1986, prior to which she taught at the middle school for one year. During her career, she has served in several extracurricular roles, including director of student activities, girls and boys varsity tennis coach, and advisor to the Yearbook Club and the Art Honor Society. "I've spent my entire career in Hicksville and feel like part of the community," the first-time Founders Day honoree said. "This is a tremendous honor, and I am very grateful." Joan once was faced with the task of photographing Billy Joel with his retiring music teacher, Chuck Arnold. "I was so flustered that I couldn't remember how to use the camera!" she recalled. In her spare time, she likes to cook and entertain family and friends. Joan lives in Greenlawn and is a single mother to her sons, Max and Ben.



KIM HEIHS

Kim Heihs: Kim Heihs has both sat on and chaired several high school PTSA committees, including Founders Day, Audit, Booster Club and Penny Auction. The second-time Founders Day honoree – she was recognized in 2009 by Woodland – is a Hicksville High School graduate and has lived in Hicksville for 50 years. "This is the best town, and I have met so many wonderful friends," she said. In her spare time, she likes to read, plan parties and visit Disney World with her family as often as possible. Kim and her husband, John, have two children, Sydney and Emily. Her golden retriever, Chelsea, is also a special part of her family.



MARY SOKENIS

Mary Sokenis: In her time as a member of the high school's PTSA, Mary Sokenis has served as treasurer and recording secretary, and as vice president and corresponding secretary with the Lee Avenue PTA. She has sat on numerous committees, including Plant Sales, Budget and Audit, Yearbook Ads and Staff Appreciation Breakfast. The second-time Founders Day honoree – she was honored in 2010 by Lee Avenue – holds a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising and management from Pratt Institute. She works as an administrative assistant and in her spare time likes cooking and traveling, especially to historic sites. She has lived in Hicksville for 20 years and is married to her husband, Roger, with whom she has two children, Briana and Frank.

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SEPTA



DANIEL GIBSON

Daniel Gibson: Daniel Gibson has worked in the district for 11 years, spending two years each at Lee Avenue, Fork Lane, East Street, Woodland and Dutch Lane, and is currently school psychologist at the middle school. The second-time Founders Day honoree – he was honored once before while at

Lee Avenue – has also been a part of the Social Skills Club and Strategy Gaming Club at the middle school. He attended Toro College and St. John’s University and holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s and doctoral degrees in school psychology. Daniel lives in Merrick with his wife, Brette, with whom he has two children, Leorah and Taliah.



ELIZABETH MUSTELLO

Elizabeth Mustello: Elizabeth Mustello has worked in Hicksville schools as a school psychologist for the past 25 years, spending the longest period of time at Old Country Road. The first-time Founders Day honoree said, “When I get in my car to come to work, I think of myself as being lucky because I come to a job that I love. To sweeten the pot even more, I am being recognized at Founders Day. I can only say thank you for honoring me in such a lovely way.” Elizabeth holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Queens College. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with family, go to the gym, dance, read, garden and shop. She lives in Manhasset and has four children and six grandchildren.

A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

<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>Terrie Perkowski</i>	2003	<i>Patricia Rooney</i>	1987	<i>John McGovern</i>	1971	<i>Dr. Erie LeBarron</i>	1956
<i>Mike Dunn</i>	2002	<i>Gerald Klein</i>	1986	<i>Felice Stein</i>	1970		
<i>Rosemary Planz</i>	2001	<i>Arlene Rudin</i>	1985	<i>Marge Giannelli</i>	1969		