

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## A Message from Your

### COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Historian Daniel J. Boorstin wrote in The Americans: The Democratic Experience, "In the small town, each citizen had done something in his own way to build the community." On Founders Day, the people of Hicksville celebrate each individual's contribution to our schools and community. Since February has been acknowledged as the month in which we honor the memory of the original members of the First Congress of Mothers, we strive to keep alive the spirit that motivated the actions of our PTA founders.

Our PTA's mission is still the same today: To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting all children, to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children, and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of our nation.

In observing Founders Day on February 26, 2015, we congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of all our honorees who have given so much of their time and energy to the children of Hicksville. Our outstanding honorees and the legacy of the previous honorees for more than 60 years provide a strong foundation on which to build a very promising future.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation, I congratulate William McKee. Although retired now, Bill was the head of buildings and grounds for more than 30 years. Bill was always there for PTA at homecoming – to reaffirm that all would go smoothly, and to relax and assure us that everything is OK. He always had a warm smile and caring look in his eye as he managed a crew of dedicated employees who took care of the grounds at our seven elementary schools, middle school and high school. Bill has been an extremely dedicated member of the Hicksville School District. He has worked countless holidays, graduations, sporting events and snowstorms to ensure that our school grounds were maintained and ready to be used by our community. He is highly respected by all staff and took great pride in his position as head groundskeeper here in the Hicksville School District. I have had the privilege of spending time with Bill preparing for homecoming. I am convinced that he didn't retire until the end of October just so he could help — not just me, but all of our district's PTAs. Bill is an extraordinary person and an inspiration to us all. I thank him for all he has done for our children and our district. I am left, however, with one problem: Who will help me going forward, Bill?

In closing, I would like to say that I am proud to be council president of a school district and in a community that has so many people willing to go the extra mile for the children. Congratulations to all of our 2015 PTA Founders Day honorees, and please don't ever stop — your invaluable contributions are immeasurable!

Irene Carlomusto

## Introducing...the 2015

### PTA FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

#### BURNS AVENUE:

Theresa Berzler  
Kelley Grant  
Dawn Joyce  
Jennifer Williams

#### DUTCH LANE:

Bernadette Costas  
Diana Farsang  
Veena Khiara  
Gage Sleeper

#### EAST STREET:

Jo-Ann Clappi  
Kristi Lombri  
Lynn Oliviero  
Jo-Ann Stimac

#### FORK LANE:

Laura Allicino  
Kristen Calise  
Tracy DiMartino  
Lori Koerner  
Sunita Manjrekar

#### LEE AVENUE:

Alexandra Alonge  
Mary Cannava  
Patricia DePinho  
Linda Johnson  
Soraya O'Donnell  
Judith Senn

#### OLD COUNTRY ROAD:

Patricia Collier  
Francine Duhigg  
An-Marie Jon  
Rose Pacheco

#### WOODLAND:

Rachel Castagliola  
Brian Cleary  
Samantha Guglieri  
Caryn Napchan  
Lisa Robertaccio  
Megan Williamson

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Glen Alexander  
Diane Faria  
Moriah Paredes  
Patricia Tarsoly

#### HIGH SCHOOL:

Cheryl Anzel  
Francine DeAgresta  
Paulina McPhillips  
Chad Wyman

#### SEPTA:

Regina Brennan  
Helene Mendoza  
Lori Saland

## SPECIAL DISTINCTION

This year's PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is **William McKee**. 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. McKee and his accomplishments, see page 2.

# District Honored Guest

Congratulations to William McKee on being named the 2015 PTA Founders Day Honored Guest. Now retired, Mr. McKee worked for the Hicksville Public Schools for 31 years and was the head groundskeeper for the district.

Mr. McKee's memories of the Hicksville community are what he refers to as "bittersweet"; building a new playground in memory of young student Monica Leary, planting the 9/11 memorial at the high school, redesigning and planting the war memorial at the middle school, and helping to dedicate the John Walker soccer field are just a handful of the projects and moments Mr. McKee will cherish forever.

In addition to fulfilling his responsibilities with due diligence and dedication, Mr. McKee is also a 40-year member of the Hicksville Fire Department, and has served two five-year terms on the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Mr. McKee graduated from Hicksville High School in 1970 and holds an associate's degree in ornamental horticulture from SUNY Delhi. He and his wife Audrey have two children, Brian and Jill, and three grandchildren, William, Collin and Emma, and one more on the way.

Being selected as the PTA Founders Day Honored Guest is a testament to the hard work Mr. McKee has displayed throughout his career. "In my 30-plus years of working at Hicksville Public Schools, I strived to always do my best job thoroughly and responsibly, to help make our schools something we can be proud of, and to enhance my community," he said. "To know that I am appreciated is wonderful, and I am grateful to be recognized."



WILLIAM MCKEE

## BURNS AVENUE *Elementary School*



THERESA  
BERZLER

**Theresa Berzler** has taught at Burns Avenue School for seven years and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She believes that "every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can be," and strives to be that champion day in and day out. She has worked the Wellness Fair every year since it began, and also sits on the Reading Program and Report Card committees.

Berzler, who says it is an honor to be recognized for Founders Day, holds a bachelor's

degree in elementary education from SUNY Old Westbury and a master's degree in literacy from LIU Post. She and her husband Philip have two children, Kailey and Madison.



KELLEY  
GRANT

**Kelley Grant** has been a teaching assistant at Burns Avenue School for 12 years and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She holds an associate's degree in marketing from Queensborough College. Grant says she is very honored to receive the recognition, and that she loves working with people who always appreciate her help in the classroom.

"I love working with the children and knowing I'm making a difference," she said. "Sometimes I begin with them in kindergarten, and then I may work with them again in second or third grade. It's amazing to see their growth." She and her husband Carl have been married for 32 years and are looking forward to a trip to Italy in June. They have two sons, Cody and Ryan.



DAWN  
JOYCE

**Dawn Joyce** has previously served as corresponding secretary and vice president of the Burns Avenue PTA, and she is currently its treasurer. "I became involved with the PTA for the children and wanted to make their school year memorable," she said.

The first-time Founders Day honoree considers herself a "behind-the-scenes" type of person and especially enjoys attending Hicksville schools' sporting events.

Joyce is the office manager of a law firm and has lived in Hicksville for 12 years. She and her husband Kerry have three sons, Sean, Daniel and Michael.

"It means a great deal," Joyce said of her Founders Day honor. "I don't do what I do for the recognition, but it's an honor that everyone thought of me."



JENNIFER  
WILLIAMS

**Jennifer Williams** currently sits on several Burns Avenue PTA committees: Book Fair, Plant Sale, Holiday Boutique and Fifth Grade. Of these, first-time Founders Day honoree Williams says she enjoys the Book Fair most because "it exposes the children to many different subjects they don't normally get exposed to." She is also a former PTA council delegate and holds the position of PTA treasurer. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Harmon School of Business in Trinidad and Tobago.

"It is very humbling for my efforts to be recognized," she said. "However, it is a labor of love. I truly cherish the opportunity to assist in building the educational foundation for our children." She and her husband Ken have two children, Trinity and Matthew.



# DUTCH LANE *Elementary School*



**BERNADETTE  
COSTAS**

**Bernadette Costas** has been a teaching assistant at Dutch Lane School for the past 16 years. The first-time Founders Day honoree earned PTA Service Awards in 2008 and 2012. She holds an associate's degree in early childhood education from SUNY Farmingdale and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from St. John's University.

"It is a great honor to be recognized for my years working at Hicksville with the children," said Costas. "I love working with them. Every day is a new day where we see enthusiasm for learning."

She also believes that if people work together, the amount they can achieve is limitless.

She and her husband Peter have two daughters, Allyson and Kerry, both of whom are graduates of Hicksville schools.



**DIANA  
FARSANG**

**Diana Farsang** Diana Farsang has been a member of the Dutch Lane PTA for the past five years and currently sits on the Reflections and Book Fair committees. The first-time Founders Day honoree says she especially enjoys the Book Fair because "it's always exciting to set up and see how excited the children get about books. I'm a strong believer in reading to your children when they are young so that they develop a strong love for books."

Farsang, who is a 30-year resident of Hicksville, holds an associate's degree from Berkley Business School

and works as an American Greeting merchandiser. She says she relishes the opportunity to be part of a family at Dutch Lane. Farsang and her husband Michael have three children, Melissa, Erica and Joseph.



**VEENA  
KHIARA**

**Veena Khiara** is currently the recording secretary for the Dutch Lane School PTA, of which she has been a member since 2012. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who has volunteered her time as a class mom, especially enjoys organizing the holiday boutique because "I love to see the children buy gifts for their family and friends, and it's a very festive atmosphere."

Khiara, who earned a certificate of recognition from the Dutch Lane PTA, said

of the Founders Day honor, "It means my services are really appreciated." She is also a lunch aide at Woodland Elementary School. She and her husband Navin have lived in Hicksville for the past seven years and have two children, Isha and Rohan.



**GAGE  
SLEEPER**

**Gage Sleeper** a custodian at Dutch Lane School for the past three years, says there isn't just one memorable moment of his time working in Hicksville. "All of my memories involve watching the children grow over the years," he said. "It really is rewarding knowing that even though I'm not in the classrooms teaching them, I did have a part in their grammar school years."

Sleeper, who holds numerous certifications in the plumbing trade from Barry Technical Institute/Wilson Technical Institute, enjoys outdoor sports, traveling, and educating himself through books and life experiences. "Being recognized at Founders Day is truly an honor," he said. "I take great pride in making sure my building provides a safe, healthy and happy environment." He and his wife Daniela have three daughters, Valentina, Isabella and Mia.

# EAST STREET *Elementary School*



**JO-ANN  
CLAPPI**

**Jo-Ann Clappi** has been a member of the East Street School PTA since 2007, volunteering her time for several committees, including Box Top/Soup Labels, Halloween Dance and Snack with Santa, which she says is her favorite, explaining, "All the kids are full of excitement and their faces are priceless when Santa arrives." She recalled a time when one girl gave Santa a letter; seeing how happy it made the girl brought tears to Clappi's eyes. "Things like that make your hard work worth it," she said.

Clappi holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Molloy College and works as an administrative assistant/event coordinator. She is a 13-year resident of Hicksville and a three-time cancer survivor. She and her husband Rob have three children, John, Louis and Anna.



**KRISTI  
LOMBRI**

**Kristi Lombri** has been treasurer of the East Street School PTA for the past two years and has served on several committees since 2010, including Penny Auction, Mother's Day Plant Sale, Halloween Party and Miss Chocolate. Her favorite was the Penny Auction because "we made a large amount of money that I knew would go into so many things for the kids." The first-time Founders Day honoree is a 1992 Hicksville High School graduate.

"It really is all about the kids, but it's nice to get a 'thanks' in return," she said. "It is such an honor to be recognized." Lombri believes that "the most important things in life aren't things." She and her husband Bobby have two children, Dominic and Alyssa.



**LYNN  
OLIVIERO**

**Lynn Oliviero** has truly made her mark throughout the Hicksville School District for the past 19 years. She currently teaches art at East Street and Fork Lane schools, and has in the past worked at Old Country Road, Woodland, Dutch Lane and Burns Avenue schools. Oliviero holds a bachelor's degree in art education and a master's degree in fine arts from New York University. She likes to travel with family, visit museums and galleries, and spend time at the beach.

"I believe in being busy, productive and purposeful," she said. "This allows me to achieve my goals." She added of her Founders Day honor, "Hicksville schools is like my second family, and it feels like my family is honoring me." She and her husband Peter Capozzi have two children, Laura and Peter.



**JO-ANN  
STIMAC**

**Jo-Ann Stimac** has been a teacher for 13 years, five of which she has taught kindergarten at East Street School. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in social studies from SUNY Oswego and a master's degree in reading from LIU Post.

"It is a privilege to work in a community that I love and respect," said Stimac, who believes the role of a teacher is to maximize the students' potential. "As I lay the foundation of student learning, I also continue to grow. It is an honor to be recognized for a job that I look forward to pursuing for many years to come." She and her husband Nino have two children, Hunter and Mia.

# FORK LANE *Elementary School*



**LAURA  
ALLICINO**

**Laura Allicino** has been a Hicksville School District staff member for 23 years. She began her teaching career as a special education teaching assistant and continued as a substitute teacher before becoming a permanent teacher at Fork Lane School. Allicino, who currently teaches kindergarten, is a second-time Founders Day honoree.

"It means so much to me to know that my students, their parents and my colleagues think that I make a difference at Fork Lane," Allicino said of this year's recognition. She also said that

she loves "learning and working with all of the wonderful people" at the school.

Allicino, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Hofstra University, enjoys taking pictures and making slideshows for people she loves. She and her husband Thomas have two children, Thomas and Ashley.



**TRACY  
DIMARTINO**

**Tracy DiMartino** has served as the corresponding secretary of the Fork Lane PTA, and she is currently its vice president. DiMartino said she enjoys the PTA Pre-Kindergarten committee, on which she has sat each year since 2012, because "it gives me the chance to get the incoming students comfortable with coming to Fork Lane." She also said she has made lifelong friends at the school.

DiMartino, who has lived in Hicksville for the past 10 years, and her husband Joseph have three children, Madelyne, Anthony and Julianna.

She said that a quote from R.J. Palacio's "Wonder," one of Anthony's class-assigned books, stuck out to her: "Courage, kindness, friendship, character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness."



**SUNITA  
MANJREKAR**

**Sunita Manjrekar** has been a member of the Fork Lane PTA for five years. She said that the Reflections committee, which she has chaired each year, is her favorite. "I love chairing Reflections because it gives me an opportunity to see some of the talented work of the children," she said. "Reading some of the literature and reviewing the visual arts is truly an amazing experience."

Manjrekar holds a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College and master's degrees in sociology and rehabilitation counseling from St. John's University. She is the director of employment and vocational services at the Nassau County Department of Social Services.

She and her husband Nitin have two children, Rhea and Rohan. They have lived in Hicksville for 12 years and especially value the town's diversity.



**KRISTEN  
CALISE**

**Kristen Calise** has been a member of the Fork Lane PTA since 2006, and cites the PTA Pre-Kindergarten committee as being her favorite. "I love working with the kids and getting them prepared for kindergarten," she said. "It's nice to see them in September happy and already having friends and knowing the school. I like to believe I made a difference in their lives."

Calise, who has lived in Hicksville for 30 years, is married to her high school sweetheart, John, and they have four children, Annie, Johnny, Nicky and Gracie.

"I'm honored to be recognized," said the first-time Founders Day honoree. "I love being able to help the school and I always enjoyed my kids' excitement when they saw me, so being recognized for something I love to do is great."



**LORI  
KOERNER**

In **Lori Koerner's** 25 years at Fork Lane School, she has had the pleasure of teaching nearly every grade level. Koerner, who is a second-time Founders Day honoree, having also earned the recognition in 1994, holds degrees in elementary education, special education and early childhood education from Dowling College. For the past 10 years, she has been an adjunct professor of special education at SUNY Old Westbury and Dowling College. Koerner has also received the Who's Who Among America's Teachers award multiple times, as well as the Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty award.

Koerner and her husband Laurence have four children, Caitlin, Dylan, Shannon and Sean.

"It was a wonderful surprise," Koerner said of the honor. "It means after all these years, I'm thought of and appreciated. It's a great feeling."

# LEE AVENUE *Elementary School*



**ALEXANDRA  
ALONGE**

**Alexandra Alonge** taught physical education at the high school, middle school, and Woodland and Dutch Lane schools from 2007 until 2009; since then, she has taught at Lee Avenue School.

The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology and a master's degree in physical education, both from Hofstra University. She was named the Nassau County Girls Golf Coach of the Year last year. In addition to coaching girls golf, she has coached middle school girls soccer and junior varsity basketball.

Alonge is married and enjoys playing golf, gardening and doing home improvements.

"It is truly fulfilling to wake up and go to a job that you love every day," she said, adding of Founders Day, "It's an honor to be recognized."



**MARY  
CANNAVA**

**Mary Cannava** has been a member of the Lee Avenue PTA for the past six years. She enjoys the Reading Is Fundamental committee most because she "loves to see the children get excited to pick out a new book." In addition, she has sat on the PTA Membership, Summer Reading Program and Box Top Mailing committees.

The first-time Founders Day honoree works in the Nassau County Unified Court System and has lived in Hicksville for 38 years. She has one son, Nicholas.

"I'm honored to be recognized and happy to be a part of this organization," Cannava said. "I really enjoy my time with the PTA and have met many wonderful people that I now call my friends."



# LEE AVENUE *Elementary School* (continued)



**PATRICIA  
DEPINHO**

**Patricia DePinho** has been a member of the Lee Avenue PTA since 2011, having served as its recording secretary each year. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree from Molloy College and works as the student manager at The Princeton Review.

DePinho, who once saved a little boy's life by donating her blood to him, has lived in Hicksville for 11 years with her husband Alfred. They have two children, Matthew and Isabella. One of her fondest memories in Hicksville, which occurs annually, is the Kennedy Park Tree Lighting Ceremony, during which Isabella sings on stage with her Girl Scout troop.

"I'm really humbled and appreciative to be honored," said DePinho. "It means a lot after all the years of service to our children at Lee Avenue."



**SORAYA  
O'DONNELL**

**Soraya O'Donnell** has served as either a chairperson or a helper on several committees as a member of the Lee Avenue PTA. Her favorite is the Holiday Boutique because "I find it heartwarming to watch the children's excitement as they take out their bills and change from Ziploc bags and pockets to buy gifts for their families."

The first-time Founders Day honoree, who has lived in Hicksville for eight years, loves the town's tradition of Santa Claus riding on a fire truck delivering popcorn balls throughout the neighborhood.

"I'm honored to be recognized for doing something that I enjoy," she said. "I've unexpectedly formed lifelong friendships with other parents and developed a deeper sense of community because of them."

O'Donnell and her husband Chris have two daughters, Samantha and Jacqueline.



**LINDA  
JOHNSON**

**Linda Johnson** began her career as a substitute teacher in Hicksville, and has taught the fourth and fifth grades at Lee Avenue since 2010. The first-time Founders Day honoree, who holds a master's degree from Hofstra University, said she will never forget her first day of work. "[When] I entered the classroom, 24 eyes were focused on me," she recalled. "I realized how much my words as a teacher can influence such young lives."

Johnson and her husband Al have two daughters, Alyssa and Abigail.

"I am truly grateful for this job, and I am honored to be recognized by the PTA as well as by the people of the community," she said. "I take my role as a teacher very seriously, and I feel very blessed."



**JUDITH  
SENN**

**Judith Senn** has been a teaching assistant at Lee Avenue School for the past 12 years and has also volunteered her time to the PTA and as a class mother. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds an associate's degree in applied science from Nassau Community College and works for Scope Education Services at Old Country Road School.

Senn has four daughters, Vanessa, Heather, Gabrielle and Alaina, as well as two grandchildren, Wolfe and Kasper. She enjoys gardening and arts and crafts.

"I am grateful to be recognized for the work I have put into being a part of the Hicksville School District," she said. "I find great pleasure in giving back to the community I grew up in, raised my children in, and live in."

# OLD COUNTRY ROAD *Elementary School*



**PATRICIA  
COLLIER**

**Patricia Collier** has been a staff member in the Hicksville School District for 30 years, 28 of which teaching at Old Country Road School. The second-time Founders Day honoree holds associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees from Nassau Community College, Molloy College and Adelphi University, respectively.

"It has always been my mission to teach whatever I am asked to teach to the best of my ability," said Collier. "It is very rewarding for me to be able to help others."

Collier and her husband Larry have three children, Jennifer, Michael and Scott, and two grandchildren, Jake and Cora.

Of her Founders Day recognition, Collier said, "I find it to be a great honor for the work and efforts that I have been happy to do."



**AN-MARIE  
JON**

**An-Marie Jon** has served as council delegate and treasurer during her time with the Old Country Road PTA. Of all the committees she has assisted with, her favorite is History Night. "It is wonderful to see parents and children engaged in the activities for the era that's being highlighted for the night," she said.

The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in politics from New York University. She works as an administrative assistant.

"Being recognized at the Founders Day celebration is truly an honor," Jon said. "I was in tears when I was informed I was being recognized."

Jon, who has lived in Hicksville for 15 years, has two daughters, Laura and Anabelle.



**FRANCINE  
DUHIGG**

**Francine Duhigg** has been the corresponding secretary of the Old Country Road PTA for the past four years. Of all the committees to which she has volunteered her time, her favorite is the Baton committee. "I have been chair of this committee since I started PTA, and watching the kids grow is bittersweet," she said. "I truly love doing this for the kids."

The first-time Founders Day honoree, who holds a bachelor's degree in social science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said she is "honored to be recognized by my peers" and that she is always left in awe of how efficiently the PTA operates. "When we put together events," she said, "somehow everything just falls into place, even when you're worried it won't."

Duhigg and her husband Patrick have one daughter, Gianna.



**ROSE  
PACHECO**

**Rose Pacheco** has spent the past decade as a teaching assistant at Old Country Road School — nine years in the fifth grade and one in the third grade. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Plaza College and is an advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

"I'm so grateful to be among the greatest, hardest-working colleagues," she said. "We all love our careers and working together with the parents at Old Country Road." Pacheco said that one of her most rewarding experiences was when a former student she worked with wrote her a letter of appreciation years after their time together.

Pacheco lives in Hicksville with her husband Nelson. They have four children, Kisha, Shavon, Christian and Jared, and four grandchildren, Deja, Gabriel, Denise and Olivia.

# WOODLAND *Elementary School*



**RACHEL  
CASTAGLIOLA**

Rachel Castagliola has served with the Woodland PTA on several committees as its corresponding secretary, while also serving as the vice president and corresponding secretary of SEPTA. The second-time Founders Day honoree, who was recognized for her service to SEPTA two years ago, cited the Book Fair as her favorite activity of all.

"I really enjoy watching the kids get so excited about picking books," she said. "It's nice to see that the kids still like to read instead of playing video games."

Castagliola has lived in Hicksville for 16 years and is married to her husband Paul, with whom she has two sons, Tyler and Connor.

"It means a lot to me that I am appreciated for all the hard work I do for the children of Woodland and the PTA," she said.



**SAMANTHA  
GUGLIERI**

Samantha Guglieri has taught special education in the Hicksville School District for the past 15 years — two years at Old Country Road School, three years at Lee Avenue School, and the past decade at Woodland School. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's degree in reading from Dowling College.

"I am so lucky to work at Woodland," she said. "I have a kind and compassionate family who has been there for me as I had three hip surgeries in three consecutive years."

She and her husband Peter have two sons, Chase and Shane. Guglieri is fluent in sign language and loves to travel. She has been to several different states and countries, and also enjoys spending time with her sons.



**LISA  
ROBERTACCIO**

Lisa Robertaccio has been council delegate for the Woodland PTA since 2012, and has served on several committees since 2001. The second-time Founders Day honoree is in her final year of service and said she will look back fondly at all of her experiences through the years.

"I am always there to help with whatever needs to be done," she said. "I will miss the Woodland family. I love seeing the smiles on the kids' faces when I walk in the school. I would not [be a part of the PTA] if I didn't love seeing them happy."

Robertaccio and her husband Robert have three children, Jordan, Tyler and Jessica.

"I'm very happy to be honored," she said. "It's all for and about the kids."



**BRIAN  
CLEARY**

Brian Cleary has served as Woodland PTA's treasurer and, in 2012, organized its end-of-year picnic. The first-time Founders Day honoree and 42-year resident of Hicksville holds a bachelor's degree from Fairfield University and a master's degree from SUNY Old Westbury. He works as a CPA.

Cleary received the Small Business Person of the Year award from the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce, and he loves to play softball with friends with whom he graduated Hicksville High School.

He said he believes that "smiles are contagious" and that "you can't always get what you want, but sometimes you get what you need."

He and his wife Susan have three children, Angela, Kaitlyn and Michael.



**CARYN  
NAPCHAN**

Caryn Napchan began her career in Hicksville as a permanent substitute teacher at Fork Lane School in 2003, and then made her way to Dutch Lane School as a leave replacement in 2004. Since 2006, she has taught at Woodland School.

The first-time Founders Day honoree, who believes "everything happens for a reason," holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education from Queens College.

She and her husband Joel have three children, Andrea, Erica and Lauren.

"It is an honor to be recognized for this award," she said. "I am very fortunate to work with so many dedicated and supportive people in the Hicksville School District."



**MEGAN  
WILLIAMSON**

Megan Williamson has taught in the Hicksville School District for seven years, beginning her career as a part-time teacher at East Street School, Old Country Road School and the high school in 2007. Since 2010, she has been a physical education teacher at Woodland School, helped organize the Health and Wellness Fair, and served as an assistant coach for junior varsity and varsity soccer.

The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University and a master's degree from Queens College.

Williamson, who believes "you miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take," said, "It is an honor to be recognized for the [Founders Day] award. I am very fortunate to work with so many dedicated and supportive people in the Hicksville School District."

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



**GLEN  
ALEXANDER**

Glen Alexander has taught at the middle school for 19 years and has participated in several committees and activities. He has coached eighth-grade boys soccer and eighth-grade girls volleyball, as well as served on many interview committees and in the Adult Leader Summer Recreation Program.

The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education/history from SUNY Cortland and master's degrees in computer-aided instruction and administration from the New York Institute of Technology and Queens College, respectively.

To help provide a place for future educators to grow and learn, Alexander has mentored 14 teachers during his time in the district. "The Hicksville community has been very good to me," he said. "I look forward to coming to work each and every day."

He and his wife Laurie have two children, Matthew and Riley.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL *(continued)*



**DIANE  
FARIA**

Since 2011, **Diane Faria** has volunteered for and chaired several committees for the middle school PTA. The second-time Founders Day honoree, who was also honored by the Old Country Road PTA in 2012, said the Book Fair is her favorite committee of all.

"I love to read, and seeing the students get excited about choosing a book, finding a book and showing it to a friend, or recommending a book they love to another student is so rewarding," she said. "Their excitement makes it fun for me."

Faria, a 17-year resident of Hicksville, holds a bachelor's degree in technical administration from the New York Institute of Technology. She and her husband Ross have two children, Ricky and Danielle.



**PATRICIA  
TARSOLY**

**Patricia Tarsoly** is band director at the middle school, has taught band for 19 years, and has worked in the Hicksville School District for a total of 22 years. The first-time Founders Day honoree holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a master's degree in liberal arts from Stony Brook University.

Tarsoly's husband Peter, whom she met in 1992 and married in 1996, is the former orchestra director at the middle school. They have two children, Peter and Grace.

"I am humbled by the honor and very grateful to wake up each morning and serve the students and community of Hicksville as a band director," she said.



**MORIAH  
PAREDES**

**Moriah Paredes** is currently co-president of the middle school PTA, for which she was corresponding secretary last year. Since 2011, she has served on various committees, and said that Sixth-Grade Field Day is her favorite. "It's the last year of elementary school, so it's the last Field Day, and the kids have such a great time," she said.

The second-time Founders Day honoree was also recognized last year by Burns Avenue School. She holds a bachelor's degree in math education from LIU Post and works as a prekindergarten teacher at the Hicksville Co-op Nursery School.

Paredes and her husband Kevin have four children, David, Rachel, Gianna and Makayla. All four children are currently enrolled in different schools: HHS, HMS, Burns Avenue and Hicksville Co-op Nursery School.

# HIGH SCHOOL



**CHERYL  
ANZEL**

**Cheryl Anzel** is a third-time Founders Day honoree, having earned the award in 2007 from East Street and in 2012 from the middle school. This year, she is being recognized by the high school.

"I have been volunteering with the Hicksville PTA since 1998, and this honor is no different from prior honors," she said. "I love working with such dedicated parents, teachers, students and administrators in Hicksville. I love seeing the students grow up and mature; it's an aspect I truly enjoy. It is an honor to be recognized for something you enjoy doing."

Anzel, who has lived in Hicksville for 20 years, works as a real estate paralegal and sits on the district's Shared Decision Making Committee. She and her husband Michael have two children, Rebecca and Brian.



**PAULINA  
MCPHILLIPS**

**Paulina McPhillips** has taught Spanish at the high school for 10 years and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Queens College and a master's degree from LIU Post. She is currently working on her administration certification.

"My philosophy is that we should treat our students as if they were members of our own family," she said. "I try to treat them the way I would want my own kids, nieces and nephews treated."

McPhillips and her husband Sean have four children, Jacqueline, Caitlin, Megan and Sean.

"I feel so fortunate to be honored because we have so many wonderful people here at Hicksville," she said. "I feel a bit unworthy, but thankful."



**FRANCINE  
DEAGRESTA**

**Francine DeAgresta** is currently president of the high school PTA and is a third-time Founders Day honoree, having been recognized by Woodland in 2010 and by the middle school in 2013. She holds a bachelor's degree in telecommunication analysis from New York University, as well as a diploma for repairing computers from Briarcliffe College.

DeAgresta has lived in Hicksville for 18 years and is married to Anthony, with whom she recently celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary. They have three children, Bianca, Antonio and Vince. She loves to garden and dance, and is a regional manager at Hallmark.

"I am humbled to be recognized by my peers," she said. "I am passionate and thankful to work with so many individuals that truly care about our students. I share this honor with my executive board."



**CHAD  
WYMAN**

**Chad Wyman** has taught at the high school for 16 years and is a first-time Founders Day honoree. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education, a master's degree in percussion performance, a master's degree in music education and postgraduate certification in education administration.

He loves to play golf, and he and his wife Jessica have one son, Colin.

"It is hard to put into words what being recognized means to me," Wyman said. "I am by nature quite shy, and not ever looking for recognition of my own. If I could, I have would have a student attend this event with me. Any success I have had is in direct correlation to the caliber of human being I have been allowed to teach. Without them, I am ordinary. I accept this honor more on their behalf than on my own."

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## SEPTA



**REGINA  
BRENNAN**

Regina Brennan is a second-time Founders Day honoree, having earned the recognition by the Woodland PTA in 2009. This year, she is honored by SEPTA.

The 13-year resident of Hicksville said her favorite committee is the Talent Show because "at Woodland, anyone who wants to get up and sing, dance or tell a joke can be in the show. It's fun to see the kids, who are all stars, take the stage and really feel like one for the night."

Brennan holds a bachelor's degree in history from SUNY Cortland and works as a legal billing coordinator. She has three daughters, Sarah, Molly and Kate.

"[The Founders Day award] means I've been recognized by my peers for my dedication to improving the educational lives of the students of Hicksville," she said.



**HELENE  
MENDOZA**

Helene Mendoza has taught in the Hicksville School District for 13 years and is currently teaching at the high school. The first-time Founders Day honoree revamped the life

skills program and thanks fellow SEPTA honoree Lori Saland for her support and encouragement with it. Mendoza is also the New York State Alternate Assessment liaison for the district.

Mendoza holds a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from St. Joseph's College and a master's degree in reading from LIU Post. She and her husband Jason have two children, Zoey and Parker.

"I hope to have continued success in Hicksville High School," she said. "I'm proud to be a teacher and I'm very lucky to have such wonderful students and colleagues."



**LORI  
SALAND**

Lori Saland has worked in the field of education for more than 25 years, and is currently in her fourth year in Hicksville as the chairperson of special education for grades 6-12. The first-time

Founders Day honoree has chaired the Committee for Special Education and the Student Support team, in addition to several other committees with which she has been involved.

Saland holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from SUNY New Paltz and a master's degree in special education from the University of Miami. She also holds advanced certification in supervision and administration from Brooklyn College.

Saland enjoys quilting and collects Fernando Botero paintings. She and her husband Howard have three children, Daniel, Tamir and Matthew, and one grandchild, Akiva.

"I'm deeply honored to have been selected by SEPTA for this recognition," she said.

## A TRADITION OF DEDICATION

### More than 60 Years of Founders Day Honorees...

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